



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

9 February 1993

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Velayati on Saudi Role To End Afghan Fighting [THE MUSLIM 8 Feb]	1
ECO Ministers Depart After End of Meetings [Islamabad TV]	1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Justice Minister Arrives for League Meeting [MENA]	1
Iraqi Envoy on Meeting With 'Abd-al-Majid [MENA]	1

Palestinian Affairs

Hanan 'Ashrawi Explains Aims of U.S. Visit [AL-FAJR 6 Feb]	2
'Arafat Adviser on Israeli 'Distortion' of Remarks [MENA]	2
Christopher's Upcoming Tour of Region Viewed [AL-SHA'B 6 Feb]	2
'Arafat Arrives in Tunisia Following Arab Tour [Sanaa VOP]	3
'Arafat Cited on Iraq Talks, Arab Reconciliation [London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 4 Feb]	3
'Arafat Says Rabin 'Not a Man of Peace' [Rome L'ESPRESSO 7 Feb]	4
'Arafat Comments on Rabin, Peace Talks, Hamas [Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 8 Feb]	5
'Arafat Calls for Change in German Policy [Munich FOCUS 8 Feb]	6
'Arab Mediators' of U.S.-Israeli Deal Assailed [AL-TALIA'H 4 Feb]	6
Negotiator on Deportee Issue, Peace Process [AL-FAJR 8 Feb]	7
Palestinian Delegation Adviser on Deportees [Rome L'UNITA 4 Feb]	8
Labeling Hamas Terrorist Called 'Outrageous' [AL-RAY 5 Feb]	9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

SONATRACH Director Holds News Conference [Algiers TV]	10
Gas Exports Reach Record Level [Algiers Radio]	10
Plans for New Oil Exploration [APS]	10

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Relations With Sudan, Iraq [AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]	10
Mubarak Remarks on Current Issues Cited [Cairo Radio]	11
Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Syria's al-Asad [MENA]	12
Mubarak Leaves for Unannounced Talks in Syria [AFP]	12
Mubarak Telephones King Fahd [MENA]	12
Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Arrives for Visit [MENA]	12
Meets With Mubarak [SPA]	12
Leaves Cairo 9 Feb [MENA]	12
Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks [MENA]	12
Meets With 'Amr Musa [MENA]	12
Mubarak Receives UAE President's Message [MENA]	13
Al-Baz on New U.S. Administration, World Order [MENA]	13
Clinton Rejection of Bosnia Peace Plan Praised [AL-AKHBAR 7 Feb]	14
'Limited Optimism' on U.S. Stand on Bosnia Noted [MENA]	14
'Bad Beginning' Said for Clinton on Deportees [AL-AHRAM 4 Feb]	14
Clinton Called 'Typical Politician' on Israel [AL-AKHBAR 4 Feb]	15
Sources Cited on Rapprochement With Iran [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Feb]	15

Iranian President's Remarks Criticized [AL-JUMHURIYAH 2 Feb]	16
Mubarak, al-Sharif Meet Algerian Minister [Cairo Radio]	16
South African PAC Official Meets With Musa [Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR 6 Feb]	16
Further Arab Pressure on Israel, U.S. Urged [AL-AKHBAR 4 Feb]	17
Israeli Offer, 'Arafat Visit to Iraq Criticized [AL-JUMHURIYAH 3 Feb]	17
Papers Denounce Deportee Spokesmen's 'Curses' [AL-JUMHURIYAH 5 Feb, etc]	18
Parliamentary Committee Comments on Deportees [MENA]	19
West's Policies Said Responsible for Saddam [AL-AHRAM 3 Feb]	19
Relations To Be Established With Turkmenistan [MENA]	20
Premier, Deputy Cite Unemployment Figures [AL-AHRAM 7 Feb]	20
Interior Minister: Police 'Won' Antiterrorist Fight [MENA]	20
Shots Reportedly Fired at German Tourist Bus [MENA]	20
Interior Minister Vows To Capture Bus Attackers [MENA]	21
Third Person Arrested in 4 Feb. Tourist Bus Attack [AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]	21
Police Kill Terrorist in Imbabah; Two Escape [MENA]	21
Extremists Involved in Recent Attacks Arrested [AL-AHRAM 3 Feb]	21
Imbabah 'Terrorists' Military Wing Leader Arrested [AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]	22

Libya

Economic, Education Accords Signed With Syria [Tripoli TV]	22
Syrian Delegation Leaves [JANA]	23
Syrian Premier Comments on Meetings [Damascus Radio]	23
Al-Muntasir on Latest Lockerbie Initiative [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Feb]	24
OPEC Head Arrives, Praises Libya's Oil Policy [JANA]	24
'Hypocrisy' of International Legitimacy Viewed [JANA]	25
Islamic Countries' Commitment to Muslims Questioned [Tripoli Radio]	25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Increased Role of UN Force on Border Welcomed [KUNA]	26
Defense Minister on Border Security, Agreements [MENA]	26
Zimbabwe President Arrives in Country for Visit [Kuwait Radio]	27
Meets With Amir [Kuwait Radio]	27
Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit [KUNA]	27

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Vietnam [WAKH]	27
--	----

Saudi Arabia

Minister Denies Meeting Israeli Official [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	27
Paper Optimistic on Outcome of Christopher Visit [SPA]	27
U.S. Stance on 'Unjust' Plan for Bosnia Praised [SPA]	28
Paper Views Secretary of State's Upcoming Visit [SPA]	28
King Fahd Receives Call From Egypt's Mubarak [SPA]	28
Committee Gives \$2.2 Million to Palestinian Cause [MAP]	28

Yemen

Japanese Expert 'Escaped,' Not Freed by Tribe [AFP]	28
---	----

IRAQ

Improved Relations With Arabs Reportedly Sought [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	29
Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Saddam on Anniversary [JNA]	29
Shiite Radio Reports Attack on Regime Forces [Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	29
More Cluster Bombs, Missiles, Grenades Defused [JNA]	29

Restaurant Explosion in Irbil Kills 3, Wounds 13	[Voice of Kurdistan]	29
Opposition 'Unhappy' With Coalition's Air Raids	[Voice of Iraqi People]	29
Writer Criticizes Arab Reaction to 13 Jan Strike	[INA]	30
Striking Iraq Said Attempt To Control Oil Fields	[INA]	30
Israeli Reporter's Visit to North Iraq Criticized	[INA]	30
Jordanian Prime Minister's Remarks on Embargo Noted	[Baghdad Radio]	31
Leadership Said Seeking Peace, Rejecting War	[INA]	31
Repair Work on al-Rashid Hotel Almost Finished	[INA]	31
UN Informed of More U.S. Airspace 'Violations'	[INA]	31
Reported to Arab League	[INA]	31

ISRAEL

Rabin Holds Talks With U.S. Senator Leahy	[Tel Aviv Radio]	32
Comments on U.S. Aid	[Jerusalem Radio]	32
Finance Minister Discusses U.S. Aid, Commitment	[Tel Aviv TV]	32
Foreign Minister Comments on Peace, U.S. Aid	[Jerusalem TV]	33
Rabin Plans Change in Peace Proposals, Delegation	[Tel Aviv Radio]	33
Rabinovich Presents Credentials, Comments on Talks	[Jerusalem Radio]	34
Palestinians Want PLO Inclusion To Resume Talks	[AL HAMISHMAR 7 Feb]	35
Rabinovich Comments on Peace Talks With Syria	[HADASHOT 5 Feb]	35
Rabin Says Arabs 'Not Serious' About Peace	[DAVAR 8 Feb]	37
Aloni Vows To Never Again Support Deportations	[Jerusalem Radio]	37
U.S.-Israeli Deal Believed Bringing PLO Back	[DAVAR 5 Feb]	38
Protest Lodged Over 'Anti-Semitic' PLO Letter	[Jerusalem Radio]	39
Fatah Hawks Issue Statement on Gains Against IDF	[HADASHOT 8 Feb]	39
Police Defuse Bomb Found in Tel Aviv Restaurant	[Jerusalem Radio]	39
Two Arabs Killed in Stoning Incident 8 Feb	[Jerusalem Radio]	40
Two Arab Youths Shot by Army in Territories 7 Feb	[HA'ARETZ 8 Feb]	40
Chinese Delegation To Sign Cooperation Accord	[Jerusalem Radio]	40
Satellite Test Launch Scheduled for End of 1993	[HA'ARETZ 5 Feb]	40

JORDAN

Delegation To Tour Russia, CIS Republics		41
King on Visit's Importance	[Amman Radio]	41
Departure Reported	[Amman Radio]	41
Paper Praises Initiative	[AL-DUSTUR 8 Feb]	41
Magazine Interviews King on Peace, U.S. Ties	[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	41
Spokesman for Peace Talks Delegation Interviewed	[London AL-HAYAH 4 Feb]	42
Decision To Send Christopher to Area 'Reassuring'	[JORDAN TIMES]	43
Clinton Urged Not To Repeat Bush 'Mistakes'	[SAWT AL-SHA'B 8 Feb]	44
King Addresses Northern Bedouin Youth Delegation	[Amman Radio]	44

LEBANON

Deportee Spokesman on Return of Sick, Injured	[Beirut Radio]	46
Criticizes Butrus-Ghali Silence	[VOL]	46
Al-Hariri Said Ready for Agreement With Israel	[VOL]	46
Al-Hariri Interviewed on Reconciliation, Rebuilding	[Paris LE MONDE 7-8 Feb]	46
Fadlallah Says UN, U.S. Working for Israel	[VOL]	47
Tehran Paper Interviews Fadlallah on Issues	[ETTELA'AT 28 Jan]	47
Hizballah Official Says U.S. Not Reliable	[Voice of the Oppressed]	50
French Experts Study Army Weapons Needs 'Secretly'	[Beirut Radio]	51
Minister Visits Sidon; Israeli Shelling Reported	[Beirut Radio]	51
Amal Hands Over Weapons To Army Command in South	[Beirut Radio]	51
Israeli Military Denies Katyusha Rocket Attack	[AFP]	51
Resistance Launches Attack; Israeli Shelling Follows	[VOM]	51
Israeli Intelligence Officers Killed in Attack	[Beirut Radio]	51

SYRIA

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives, Met by al-Asad [Damascus Radio]	52
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Reviews Visit, Leaves [KUNA]	52
Further on Visit [Damascus Radio]	52
Unified Arab Stance Urged To Face Challenges [Damascus Radio]	52
U.S. Urged To Reconsider Stand on Deportees [Damascus Radio]	53

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Fighting in, Around Kabul	54
Golboddin Offensive Foiled [Kabul Radio]	54
Over 200 Missiles Launched [Kabul Radio]	54
Iranian, Turkish Embassies Hit [Tehran Radio]	54
Clandestine Notes Rabbani's Status at Saudi Talks [Radio Message of Freedom]	54

Bangladesh

Minister Rejects Allegation on By-Election Result [Dhaka Radio]	54
---	----

India

Gonzalez-Led Spanish Delegation Begins Visit [Delhi Radio]	55
Agreement Signed [Delhi Radio]	55
Gonzalez, Rao Discuss Cooperation [Delhi Radio]	55
Rao Hosts Banquet [Delhi Radio]	55
Scientific Cooperation Accord Signed With Mongolia [Delhi TV]	56
Commentary Views Defense Cooperation With Malaysia [Delhi International]	56
Article Notes Development of Fast Breeder Reactors [PATRIOT 30 Jan]	56
Tamil Nadu Congress-I Group Protests Bomb Blasts [Delhi Radio]	58
Former Janata Dal Legislators Join Congress-I [Delhi Radio]	58
BJP Urged Not To Hold Rally in New Delhi [Delhi Radio]	58
Casualties Reported in Delhi, Kashmir Bomb Blasts [Delhi Radio]	58
Bid To Infiltrate Territory From Pakistan Foiled [Delhi Radio]	58
Eight Soldiers Killed in Kashmir Clashes [Islamabad TV]	59
TV Reports Army Search Operations in Kashmir [Delhi TV]	59

Iran

Velayati Returns From ECO Talks, Comments [IRNA]	59
U.S. Stance on Bosnian Muslims Questioned [Tehran Radio]	59
Majles Deputy Speaker Receives Russian Counterpart [Tehran TV]	60
Official Lauds Karabakh Mediation [IRNA]	60
Islamic Guidance Minister Meets Afghan Delegation [IRNA]	61
Daily Assesses Tehran-Ankara Relations [IRNA]	61
Condolence Messages Issued on Plane Crash [IRNA]	61
Khamene'i Expresses Condolences [IRNA]	61
Cabinet's Condolences on Air Crash [Tehran Radio]	62
DPRK Assembly Chairman Ends Visit, Leaves Tehran [Tehran Radio]	62
Sermon Given on Iran as Basis for Fundamentalism [Tehran TV]	62
President Stresses Importance of Research [IRNA]	63
Majles Speaker on Womens' Rights in Iran [Tehran Radio]	63
Media Seen Neglecting Important Foreign Issues [SALAM 29 Jan]	63
Official Discusses Plans for Petrochemical Industry [IRNA]	64
Technicians Repair High-Altitude Missile Systems [Tehran Radio]	65
Delegation Visits France To Promote Investment [IRNA]	65
Ayatollah Khamene'i Pardons 116 Convicts [IRNA]	66

Nepal

Ruling Party Congress Ends; Constitution Unchanged [AFP]	66
--	----

Pakistan

Nuclear Technology Agreement Signed With France [Islamabad Radio]	66
French Foreign Affairs Official Pays Visit	66
Urges Peace With India [Islamabad International]	66
Meets Finance Minister [Islamabad TV]	67
Talks With Sharif [Islamabad Radio]	67
Meets President, Foreign Minister [Islamabad TV]	67
Shah Hosts Banquet for Turkish Counterpart [Islamabad Radio]	67
UAE Vice President Meets With Khan [Islamabad Radio]	67
Joint Exercises With Saudi Navy Conclude [Islamabad TV]	67
Jordanian Navy Chief Arrives for 8-Day Visit [Islamabad TV]	68
Supreme Court To Investigate Beg's Remarks [THE NEWS 7 Feb]	68
Defense Minister Discusses Current Issues [PAKISTAN 7 Feb]	68
Government To Build Destroyer, Frigate for Navy [THE MUSLIM 5 Feb]	69
Paper Denies President Opposes Nuclear Policy [THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 4 Feb]	69
Paper Views National Security, Military Spending [THE MUSLIM 6 Feb]	70
Foreign Office Counters Arms Smuggling Charges [THE NATION 8 Feb]	71
Commentary Views Yeltsin Remarks on Kashmir [Islamabad Radio]	71
Chinese Friendship Delegation Meets Ishaq Khan [Islamabad TV]	72
Sharif Announces Land Reforms in Sindh [Islamabad Radio]	72

Velayati on Saudi Role To End Afghan Fighting

BK0802143393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
8 Feb 93 p 12

[By Syed Konain Haider]

[Text] Quetta, Feb 7: Tehran would welcome Saudi Arabia at any trilateral talk between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran for bringing peace and tranquillity in the war-ravaged country.

Speaking at a hurriedly called Press conference here Sunday night, the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said he held talks with Pakistani and Afghan Ministers of States for Foreign Affairs, Siddique Kanjoo and Dr Najibollah Lafra'i on the on-going bloodshed in Afghanistan at the sidelines of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] conference of Foreign Ministers which concluded on Sunday [7 February].

Dr Velayati was responding to a question on whether Tehran has a separate peace-initiative and why it had not joined the Pak-Saudi initiatives for stopping in-fighting in Afghanistan.

He categorically denied that his country has concluded an agreement of cooperation with Governor of Herat Ismail Khan or opened Consulate at Mazar-e Sharif without consulting or seeking formal permission from the Federal Government in Afghanistan.

Mr Velayati denied that Tehran was helping a particular group or sect of Mojahedin in the on-going hostilities. "We are supporting all the people of Afghanistan regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliations for bringing peace and tranquillity", he remarked.

Dr Velayati disagreed with a questioner that Iran pushed back people fleeing the killing in Afghanistan via Harat. He said UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] officials were in Harat and could testify to this fact.

"It is untrue", Mr Velayati remarked when asked to comment on allegations that Iran was involved in preparing nuclear arms with the Pakistani assistance.

When asked whether Iran's membership in ECO would block Western Financial assistance, Dr Velayati said his country had sought credit from World Bank and IMF.

ECO Ministers Depart After End of Meetings

BK0802161293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] have expressed their satisfaction over the adoption of the Quetta action plan. Talking to PTV correspondent Ali Masud at the Quetta Airport prior to their departure for different destinations, they said the Quetta action plan will help integrate the economic and development planning within the ECO member countries. The ministers from Tajikistan,

Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan expressed similar views on the Quetta action plan. The foreign minister of Iran, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, while expressing his satisfaction said Quetta action plan will enable us to pick the thread at ECO summit scheduled in Turkey this summer. During the council of ministers session we are able to explore avenues of closer cooperation he added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Justice Minister Arrives for League Meeting

NC0602194293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1904 GMT
6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit of a few days to Cairo. During his stay, the Iraqi minister will take part in the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Arab justice ministers, which will begin on 7 February at the Arab League. The goal of the meetings is to prepare an agenda for the coming conference of the Arab justice ministers, due to be held in April.

Iraqi Envoy on Meeting With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC0802160693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1504 GMT
8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid received Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, today.

Najm said the meeting fell within the framework of the continuous consultations with the secretary general on the overall Arab situation, including the situation in Iraq and the dangers it is facing as a result of the blockade imposed on it. He said he conveyed to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid a verbal message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf on Iraq's view of the challenges it faces. He explained that the Arab League is doing all it can to consolidate joint Arab action.

Najm said the U.S. Administration must understand Arab causes and take Iraqi and Arab interests into consideration as well as its own. He said it is premature to pass a judgment on the new U.S. Administration's stand on Iraq. He indicated, however, that positive signs are emerging on the dialogue in light of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

Najm said he hopes the blockade on Iraq will be eased, adding that it has led to the death of thousands of citizens due to food and medicine shortages and the use of some internationally banned weapons against the Iraqi people.

Najm said the Kuwaiti file has been completed and closed and that Iraq's stand is expressed through its adherence to the Security Council resolutions.

Najm said that contacts between several quarters and Iraq are taking place regarding Kuwaitis in Iraq, adding that these contacts are taking place through the Red Cross and the Arab League Secretary General's envoy.

Palestinian Affairs

Hanan 'Ashrawi Explains Aims of U.S. Visit

TA0802164693 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 6 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[By Khalid Abu-Akir]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, is leaving today for the United States to meet with a number of officials in the new U.S. Administration. The purpose of the visit is to discuss overcoming obstacles to the resumption of the peace process.

Dr. 'Ashrawi told AL-FAJR that her trip to the United States had been authorized by the Palestinian leadership to "open a dialogue with the new administration and review a number of issues relating to the peace process and the deportation." She added that the Palestinian delegation and leadership believe that there is a need to conduct a frank dialogue and an accurate analysis with the new administration and address the issues jointly.

Dr. 'Ashrawi pointed out that the Palestinians prefer to hold intensive talks with the U.S. side prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival to the region at the end of this month "so that he will be acquainted with the Palestinian position instead of exploring it during his visit."

During her visit, Dr. 'Ashrawi is expected to meet with a number of U.S. state department officials, including Edward Djerejian and Samuel Lewis. The visit was postponed three times in January.

Dr. 'Ashrawi explained that the visit has three aspects:

First, discussing bilateral Palestinian-U.S. relations.

Second, discussing the deportee issue, Israel's continued human rights violation, and the need to compel Israel to respect the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Third, discussing the peace process and reviewing its weak points in order to rectify its course. In addition, we will address the issues that have allowed Israel to exploit an unequal situation and not adhere to the terms of reference of negotiations, which are based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Dr. 'Ashrawi added that she will discuss with U.S. officials the Palestinian demand to reassess the overall framework of the peace process in light of the lack of progress in the talks during the past eight rounds and in light of Israel's intransigent stance and violation of the terms of reference.

On the other hand, Dr. 'Ashrawi affirmed that "Palestinian commitment to the continuation of the peace process is strategic, not tactical, but this will not be at all costs. We are trying to rectify this process and put it in its right course."

Dr. 'Ashrawi explained that the peace process "cannot be resumed before two months at least, because there is an urgent need to address the pending problems."

Dr. 'Ashrawi is expected to meet with UN Security Council members in New York to discuss the deportee issue and ways of implementing Resolution 799.

'Arafat Adviser on Israeli 'Distortion' of Remarks

NC0802121693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'ith, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has denounced the Israeli radio's distortion of the statements he made at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry the day before yesterday, adding that the radio turned the meaning upside down.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. Sha'ith said he declared clearly in his statements that the PLO rejects Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's plan on the deportees, because it does not provide a solution to the problem. He emphasized that the problem will not be solved unless all the deportees are returned to their homes, because the deportations were illegal in the first place.

I explained clearly that we are not against the return of 100 Palestinians to their homes, but against the continued presence of 300 Palestinians outside their homeland, he said. He added: We are against keeping any deportee outside his homeland. The only solution is to implement Resolution 799 fully and immediately; otherwise, it will not be possible to continue the peace process.

Christopher's Upcoming Tour of Region Viewed

TA0802200893 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour"]

[Text] We do not wish to prejudge the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour in the region at the end of this month. However, the signs projected by the secretary before his trip, in concluding "a deal" with Israel outside the Security Council to save it from any international questioning on continued intransigence and refusal to implement Resolution 799, raise further doubts about the secretary's possible success in his mission. This is because he has adopted a new approach in his policy which calls for providing Israel with easy conditions to pay UN resolutions in long-term installments. This makes Washington a partner of Israeli violations and, consequently, deprives it of the role of honest broker. Such a role requires one to deal with UN

resolutions with a single standard, without appeasing or pampering this or that party.

Washington has worn Israel's "garb" before the international court and has plunged forward to defend it "be it oppressed or oppressor," while Israel continues to flagrantly violate the resolutions of international legitimacy and human rights within earshot and eyesight of the world. Therefore, we realize beforehand that Washington is not serious in supporting the peace process and removing the most difficult obstacle facing this process, the Israeli obstacle. This is apparent in particular when such political cover for Israel and its protection from international questioning is met with more inflexibility and extremism in the occupied territories on a daily basis by Rabin and his ruling clique. The number of homes subjected to rocket attacks and the number of martyrs, especially among children, have doubled, contravening the Fourth Geneva Convention and the legitimacy of human rights.

It should be noted that such U.S. positions, which overlook Israeli policies and protect them politically and militarily, have encouraged Israel's leaders and have strengthened their tendency toward aggression and violation of human rights, as in Marj al-Zuhur.

Hence, Christopher's tour will be welcomed if it contributes toward forcing Israel to stop violating international laws and implement Resolution 799. This will advance the negotiations and restore U.S. credibility, which has been lost in the wake of Israeli violations of UN resolutions.

'Arafat Arrives in Tunis Following Arab Tour

JN0802194293 *Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic* 1800 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], state of Palestine president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has arrived in Tunis following visits to Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Cited on Iraq Talks, Arab Reconciliation

PM0902092793 *London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic* 4 Feb 93 p 1

[Basim Sakjaha and Jane 'Arraf report: "Saddam Advises 'Arafat To Continue Peace Negotiations. Talk of Arab Reconciliation Summit in Cairo"]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Amman, Algiers—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday revealed that Iraq has decided to offer a donation in the form of quantities of oil worth \$50 million to the Palestinian refugees' relief and employment agency [wikalat ghawth wa tashghil al-laji'in al-filastiniyyin]. 'Arafat thanked Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for "all he has done for this people, especially the offering of the sum in question to cover the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] deficit.

President 'Arafat, who was speaking at a news conference in the Iraqi capital, said that this sum will be offered

in the form of oil consignments under UN supervision. The Palestinian president revealed that the Iraqi president had advised the Palestinians to continue the peace talks with Israel. He also said that he had informed President Saddam of the status of the Arab-Israeli peace talks during his meeting with him the day before yesterday (Tuesday), their first meeting in over a year.

He said that, although 15 months have elapsed since the talks began and nothing new has been achieved, the Iraqi leader advised him to continue his attempts to achieve a real peace. [passage omitted]

Asked whether he had received signals from any Arab leaders reflecting willingness to improve relations with Iraq, President 'Arafat told REUTER: "I learned that from some of them."

He added that it was premature to reveal the names of these Arab leaders.

He said that he was carrying no specific messages to or from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

'Arafat also pointed out that he was trying to mediate a territorial dispute between Egypt and Sudan.

Jordanian and Palestinian political circles have begun to talk about reports of the possibility of convening an Arab summit in Cairo at the end of the month or early next month, under the title "The tragedy of the deportees," designed to achieve Arab reconciliation.

Sources linked this information with President 'Arafat's surprise visit to Amman and Baghdad this week. They said that he was carrying a certain Egyptian message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

They also said that a Saudi Gulf [as published] agreement in principle (with the exception of Kuwait) has actually been reached in this connection, on the premise that the Egyptian capital and the Palestinian leadership continue to develop the issue before announcing it publicly.

Previous information indicated that an undeclared agreement had been reached between Baghdad and Riyadh to suspend media campaigns between the two capitals. It has been implemented over the past few weeks. It was preceded by contacts in Cairo, New York, and UN lobbies.

And although Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is not expected to attend the summit, for domestic reasons, a high-level Iraqi move to prepare the necessary ground for the positions at the summit has already begun this week.

Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to Algeria two days ago was to be understood in this context. And the visit to Yemen this week by a Saudi minister was also understood to be within the context of achieving reconciliation.

During the visit the minister met with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. And observers expected the border dispute between the two countries to be defused soon.

Meanwhile, endeavors to achieve Arab reconciliation seem to coincide with the possibility that the official embargo imposed on Iraq is being eased, after clear signals on the ground in this connection.

This is because the real embargo imposed on Jordan via the port of al-'Aqabah to prevent goods from reaching Iraq is no longer a strict one, and the road linking the two countries has begun to witness activities reminiscent of the days that preceded the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

In another development, diplomatic sources have asserted that Kuwait has begun a countermove to stop any efforts "to improve the Arab atmosphere" first with regard to the Gulf capitals and then Cairo and Damascus.

However, the sources played down the importance of the Kuwait move, because matters have already ripened in the other direction. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Says Rabin 'Not a Man of Peace'

PM0802165193 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 7 Feb 93 pp 80-83

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Dina Nascetti in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tunis—[Introductory passage omitted] [Nascetti] Are you disappointed by the [Israeli court's] verdict?

[Arafat] I expected it. In all these years the Israeli Supreme Court has never opposed a government decision. This is further proof that there is no justice in the Israeli legal system. And I judge this to be a blow which could turn out to be the death blow for the peace process.

[Nascetti] So what is to be done?

[Arafat] To begin with, let us start by saying what Rabin has done. He has issued a real declaration of war. With the mass deportations, not only has he ignored the Geneva Convention but he has not even respected UN resolutions, including the last one calling for the deportees' immediate return.

[Nascetti] But was Rabin not the man of the Palestinians' (and many Israelis') hopes?

[Arafat] No. I did not trust Yitzhaq Rabin before, and I trust him even less now. His promises are words in the wind. His policies are similar to those of his predecessor Yitzhaq Shamir. Rabin is trying to normalize relations with the Arab countries in order to leave the Palestinians weakened and alone. In short, he is trying to blot out the sun with his finger.

[Nascetti] When you say Arab countries, do you mean Syria in particular?

[Arafat] That is what Israel would like. We and the Arab countries have decided among ourselves that the solution must be a global one; we will not engage in separate negotiations, never mind separate agreements.

[Nascetti] Despite all this, you recently invited the Israeli prime minister to a meeting, but Rabin refused. Will you continue to hold out your hand to him?

[Arafat] By now it is clear that Rabin does not have the courage of a De Gaulle. Nor is he capable of being a De Klerk. Rabin is not a man of peace.

[Nascetti] And yet people are convinced in Israel that there will be a meeting soon...

[Arafat] I do not see how.

[Nascetti] Certain members of the Israeli prime minister's entourage maintain that Rabin is indeed prepared to sign a peace treaty with the Palestinians, but not with you, 'Arafat, whom he considers a stumbling block.

[Arafat] Well, with whom does Rabin want to make peace—a ghost? Rabin knows full well, and everybody knows, that the Palestinian delegates taking part in the negotiations belong to the PLO. I ask the question: Could we, the Palestinians, make peace with Israel, without that peace being endorsed by the prime minister?

[Nascetti] If it were necessary in order to achieve peace, would you step down?

[Arafat] Could I ask Rabin the same question? And would that request not be, perhaps, a decision contrary to the Palestinian people's self-determination?

[Nascetti] For decades now, every time that your organization takes steps along the path to peace, something happens to upset the whole process, as happened with the fundamentalist group Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] guerrilla actions.

[Arafat] You are completely off track; you see events with only one eye. You forget Israel's repressive policies, the crimes committed daily against our children, against our people, against the holy places, both Christian and Muslim. People always forget what Israel does, what Israel declares.

[Nascetti] Why are Israel's steps always understood, while those of the Palestinians are not?

[Arafat] Who told you that? The whole of international public opinion is against the deportation and supports the Palestinian cause. Israel has been condemned at all levels, by all the international bodies.

[Nascetti] Sure, but those deportees have been on that hill now for almost two months, in that no man's land. Even Israel's pacifist left wing voted in favor of the expulsions.

[Arafat] That vote was a real shock to me. People forget that, in the month before the Israeli soldier was killed by

Hamas, 11 Palestinian children were murdered. Since the moment we sat down at the negotiating table, about 800 people have been killed in the occupied territories.

[Nascetti] You have asked Italy to mediate. Why?

[Arafat] I would like the bilateral negotiations to move to Rome as planned. They were moved to Washington for American electoral reasons. But apart from that I would like Italy and Europe to take a more active role. Without it I am convinced that the peace process will not achieve any positive results, because the American Administration still supports the Israeli viewpoint.

[Nascetti] The Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, have been calling for a more active European role for 20 years, but with no tangible results.

[Arafat] That does not mean that I shall stop asking.

[Nascetti] What expectations do you have of the new American Administration?

[Arafat] I will wait and see. I hope that the new secretary of state's forthcoming trip to the Middle East region will give the peace process a great boost and put pressure on Israel.

[Nascetti] Let us return to the topic of Hamas. What are current relations like between your organization and the fundamentalist group?

[Arafat] Good.

[Nascetti] But Hamas opposes the peace process.

[Arafat] There are some groups which oppose it even within the PLO's ranks. That is our democracy. We respect the minority even when it opposes majority decisions.

[Nascetti] Israel and the United States are asking you to put a stop to the acts of rebellion in order to create a climate of greater trust.

[Arafat] But it is they who must end the occupation which is the cause of all these problems.

[Nascetti] The occupation is currently under negotiation.

[Arafat] But meanwhile it goes on. The most savage repression continues. And the Israelis continue to close schools and universities, they continue to confiscate our lands, and to settle new colonies.

[Nascetti] Is peace close at hand or far away?

[Arafat] If Israel carries on along these lines, it is far away. And if peace does not come soon, total chaos will overtake this region. A violent and extremist Balkanization of the Middle East, with unforeseeable consequences.

'Arafat Comments on Rabin, Peace Talks, Hamas
AU0802155993 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 8 Feb 93 pp 142-143

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by DER SPIEGEL; place and date not given: "Rabin Is Lying to the Israelis and to Us"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Israel recently permitted contacts with PLO functionaries. When will you meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Arafat] If I had it my way, immediately, but he does not want to talk to me.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why not?

[Arafat] He is not interested in a talk because apparently he is not interested in peace in the Middle East either. He proves this anew every day, last time by the cruel war crime against the deported Palestinians in southern Lebanon. Not even his predecessor Shamir acted so brutally against us Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] But you are not seriously longing for Greater Israeli nationalist Shamir?

[Arafat] At least, we always knew what to make of him—he always made it quite plain to us that he did not take the peace process seriously. But his successor only won the elections because he made the Israeli people believe that he would bring peace. Rabin is lying to the Israelis and to our people. If he does not negotiate with us, with whom else? Perhaps with ghosts?

[DER SPIEGEL] Rabin is negotiating with Syria and Jordan. Are you afraid that your Arab partners might make their own peace with Israel in the Middle East negotiations—at the expense of the Palestinians?

[Arafat] There is a clear agreement between Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and us that we only speak in one voice.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Arab leaders have often cheated the Palestinians.

[Arafat] The Israelis are certainly anxious to come to an agreement with their Arab neighbors over our heads. But they will not succeed because there will be no peace in the Middle East without the Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] The radical Muslim organization, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has developed into a dangerous competition for the PLO in the occupied territories. In contrast to you, Hamas is pursuing the establishment of an Islamic state on Palestinian soil and calls for an armed fight against Israel. Is Hamas not also an obstacle on the road to peace?

[Arafat] Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, whom the Israelis have held prisoner for almost four years, is like a brother to me. I know him from joint days of studies in Cairo and I respect him very much.

[DER SPIEGEL] With all respect, Hamas is combating your Fatah organization in the occupied territories with merciless severity. Precisely with young people, the extremists are most popular, at the expense of the PLO.

[Arafat] Although the Hamas activities are currently making the biggest headlines, they lost against us in most elections in the occupied territories. They have their place in our Palestinian democracy.

[DER SPIEGEL] Hamas does not seem to be interested in democracy. Instead of cooperating with you, the Hamas leadership permits Iran to advise and finance it.

[Arafat] My people react allergically to foreign interference. The close relationship with Tehran cost Hamas much sympathy among the Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] At present, only one party seems to be benefiting from the struggle for power between the PLO and Hamas: Israel.

[Arafat] It is no accident that present Prime Minister Rabin let the Hamas people alone in the occupied territories when he was defense minister, in order to drive a wedge between the Palestinians. But Rabin still does not know us. He is trying to cover the sun with his fingers. He underestimates the Palestinians and me, too. We are as enduring and frugal as camels. How many opponents do you think I have already had to deal with, even in my own ranks. And where are they now?

[DER SPIEGEL] Are the Arab-Israeli peace talks now about to fail?

[Arafat] All of us, both Arabs and Israelis, are fated to peace—otherwise things like in the Balkans will soon happen in the Middle East. It all depends on the amount of pressure that is put on Rabin.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you expect new U.S. President Bill Clinton to exercise this pressure?

[Arafat] In his election campaign, Clinton repeatedly referred to the importance of human rights. I hope that this self-commitment will result in more pressure on the Israeli occupation regime.

[DER SPIEGEL] In Germany it was noted with astonishment that you sent a solidarity address to Erich Honecker when he was in prison and contributed a significant sum to his old-age pension...

[Arafat] ... I did not give him anything, although I would like to. I am proud that Erich Honecker is my friend. I, personally, and the Palestinian people owe him much. The GDR helped us politically and militarily and trained numerous Palestinian students. I am a man who never forgets such things.

'Arafat Calls for Change in German Policy

AU0902113993 Munich FOCUS in German 8 Feb 93 p 131

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Bruno Funk; place and date not given: "German Policy Must Change"]

[Text] [Funk] Why was there no meeting between you and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel when he recently visited Tunis?

[Arafat] The German side did not request such a meeting. Bonn keeps making the old mistakes.

[Funk] Germany might become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. What do you think about that?

[Arafat] In view of the current German policy, this would be a drama for us. The Germans are working only for Israel in every respect. They keep the door slammed shut to us.

[Funk] How should German policy change in your view?

[Arafat] The Germans make my people pay the price of their policy. Today we are being punished for our relations with the ex-GDR. The PLO is not even permitted to operate an independent representation in Bonn.

[Funk] What steps do you expect Israel to take after the abolition of the ban on contacts between Israeli citizens and PLO representatives?

[Arafat] Rabin should stop trying to hide the sun with his fingers. This policy is pointless. It is a fact that the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations on the peace process is a PLO delegation.

[Funk] What is your attitude toward the fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization, which is persecuted in Israel for its terrorist activities?

[Arafat] We are in constant dialogue with Hamas. The organization is to become a full PLO member. It must accept and share responsibility. So far there has been no evidence at all that Hamas members are responsible for the death of Israeli soldiers or settlers. The Israeli side is manipulating the information provided by its intelligence service.

'Arab Mediators' of U.S.-Israeli Deal Assailed

T40502191193 Jerusalem AL-TALFAH in Arabic 4 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "In Order to Close the Loopholes"]

[Text] The U.S.-Israeli compromise on the deportees has raised many significant and basic issues, particularly regarding Arab solidarity with the Palestinians and the importance of this solidarity in protecting the Palestinian cause from the dangers that envelop it.

If Israel has clearly stated that the aim of this compromise is reaching full understanding with the new U.S. Administration, what draws attention is the rush by some Arab countries, specifically the Gulf states, to express their understanding of this deal and advise the Palestinians to accept the U.S. compromise.

Clearly, the appearance of such negative phenomena in the Arab position has encouraged the two parties in the deal to go forward with it and bet on the Gulf states' and Egyptian tools of persuasion to peddle the deal and turn it into a *fait accompli* with the passage of time!

It is for this reason that the Israeli position calls for excluding the Palestinians from the current political contacts and concentrating efforts in the first instance on official Arab parties with the aim of giving "Arab mediators" the chance to play their role in promoting this deal.

Palestinian insistence on rejecting this deal and the solidarity of the Arab parties taking part in the negotiations will close most of the loopholes and foil a lot of bets, especially since these parties together possess great capabilities and potentials, which if utilized soundly will enable them to regain the upper hand and thwart those who are trying to draw the future of this region according to their own colonialist plans and deals, which disregard the most elementary human rights guaranteed by all charters.

Negotiator on Deportee Issue, Peace Process

TA0802163293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 8 Feb 93 p 16

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: How do you see the settlement that the Israeli authorities declared in cooperation with the United States in an attempt to settle the issues of the expellees?

A: It was an American-Israeli deal; we had nothing to do with it. It reflects the Israeli-American position. We see it as a very serious precedent because United Nations resolutions are not issued to be a deal to be negotiated; rather, to be implemented.

Q: So the Palestinian position is still to implement U.N. Resolution 799?

A: It's the world's position. It's not only the Palestinians' position. This resolution passed with the unanimous approval of the permanent members of the Security Council and other members, including the United States. The only realistic way out in dealing with this issue is to see a mechanism, a vehicle, to implement 799 so all expellees can come home.

When I say this a serious precedent, when we hear that Israel and the United States reached an agreement to implement 25 percent of Resolution 799, it is because we all know that we entered the peace process based on

Resolutions 242, 338—425 as far as Lebanon is concerned. So now, if we witness a compromise on 799, then what will guarantee us tomorrow that another deal will not bring about a compromise on 52 percent of Resolution 242 or 50 percent of 425?

I think those who made the deal have taken into consideration Rabin's problems and had in mind the difficulties facing the new Clinton administration vis-a-vis the Security Council, but they forgot about one important thing: the peace process.

Rabin may have succeeded in offering the Palestinians something he knew they could not accept, which means that the expellees will remain expelled. At the same time, he may succeed in relieving the pressure off Israel by the Security Council. But at the end of the day, we won't have a peace process, simply because this obstacle put there by Rabin is much too great for us to jump over as the Palestinian delegation.

Q: President 'Arafat's personal political adviser, Bassam Abu-Sharif, said the peace process and the expulsion issue are separate issues.

A: I think Abu-Sharif reflects more or less his personal opinion because the PLO leadership's position, which was taken December 20th, says that our participation in the multilateral and bilateral negotiations is suspended until all the expellees are returned.

The same position was conveyed through Faysal al-Husayni and myself on Feb. 3 to the sponsors of the peace process—the Russians and the Americans—after the other European representatives in Jerusalem.

The PLO is still considering the situation very serious, very grave. Our inability to continue the process is due to the rejection of Rabin to implement 799. The other fact is that the United States or anybody else cannot directly or indirectly legitimize actions like expulsion. We still want the United States and other on the Security Council to see that the resolution they voted for is entirely implemented.

Q: France is proposing a compromise that considers the Israeli deal to be positive, but asks for a timetable for the return of all the expelled. How do you see this?

A: I really haven't seen anything official coming from the French. We inquired about this yesterday when we met with the head of the foreign relations committee of the French National Assembly. France's position is still behind the full implementation of 799. That's what we were told.

Q: A list of 101 expellees who would be allowed to return was announced by the Israeli authorities. This seems to be a message that the ball is in the Palestinian court. Does that change any position?

A: There are 396 balls in the Israeli court. Rabin knows that the resolution passed by the Security Council, 799,

demands the return of all the expelled—not 100, not three, not 13, not 300, but all of them.

So in my opinion, they admitted making 13 mistakes when they returned 13. Today they are admitting they made 100 mistakes. They still have to admit 296 other mistakes because they must return.

We have a strong commitment to the peace process because we seriously believe that there is a good chance to really reshape the whole Middle East. But at the same time, we cannot be left at the mercy of Rabin, his mood and internal politics, like expelling people, firing missiles at our homes, arresting people without trial, or confiscating land. All of these actions are huge obstacles to this peace process. Each action endangers the peace process.

Q: So it is not only the expulsion order which is an obstacle to the peace process?

A: There are many obstacles to the peace process, but the major obstacle standing in the way of resuming the negotiations is the expulsions. But there are other issues which are serious that need to be tackled, especially as far as human rights violations are concerned, Israel's intransigence and the rejection of the Fourth Geneva Convention. We think the terms of reference of the peace conference are no longer valid to really give the peace process a chance.

Q: What are the terms of reference which the Palestinians are envisioning at the moment?

A: That the United States, as one of the sponsors, must play a much, much more active role. They must treat Israel just like any other country which violates international legality. Israel cannot be treated like a country above the laws of man.

We also think that there must be a major European role in the peace conference.

The PLO must have a dialogue with the Israelis or the U.S. administration. All these variables constitute support systems that will enable us to succeed in our peace process.

Q: Do you think such a thing can happen now that a new U.S. administration is in place?

A: Whether it is a new administration or any other thing, the new administration realizes the new realities. I'm sure they studied the file of the peace process. I'm sure they know the difficulties facing the peace process. If they want to give this peace process a push, it's not enough to tell the parties to come back. They must start tackling some of the terms of reference of the points I mentioned.

Q: On the level of the Palestinian delegation, are you expecting certain things from the new administration?

A: The new administration will look at (the peace process) as a sponsor of the peace process. We don't look

at them as a superpower, as a permanent member of the Security Council, rather as a sponsor.

Clinton said that he has every interest in continuing this peace process. That's why we call upon him to look carefully at the file of the peace process and to realize that many things have to change. Israel must comply. And as far as the PLO is concerned, Clinton must resume the dialogue with the PLO, because this will give the peace process the push it requires.

Palestinian Delegation Adviser on Deportees

PM0902104093 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 4 Feb 93
p13

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Chairman of Advisory Committee to Palestinian Delegation at peace negotiations, by Umberto De Giovannangeli; date and place not given]

[Text] "Asking for full implementation of Resolution 799 on the deportees does not mean kowtowing to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] nor in any way abandoning the policy of dialogue. Quite the opposite: Asking for it to be fully complied with is the only way to persuade people in the occupied territories that there is still some point in believing in justice and international law." That was how our conversation with Faysal al-Husayni, coordinator of the Palestinian Delegation at the peace talks with Israel and universally recognized as the most authoritative leader of the intifadah, began. In the past week, in the middle of the "crisis of the 415," al-Husayni has acted as roving ambassador for the Palestinians going from the European Parliament to Tunis, from Cairo to Amman: "Everywhere," al-Husayni stressed, "I have encountered concern and solidarity toward us. It is a mistake today to say that we are isolated: If anything, it is the Israeli Government which has an international credibility deficit."

[De Giovannangeli] Let us start with the most current topic. What is your assessment of the proposal for compromise put forward by Yitzhaq Rabin in order to set about finding a solution to the affair of the 415 Palestinian deportees in no man's land?

[Al-Husayni] I would like to answer by adopting the declarations which were published yesterday in the Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR, which is close to President Mubarak: "The Palestinian deportees must reject the Israeli method, which consists in turning any legal and humanitarian mistakes which it makes to its advantage, and they must insist on the need for full implementation of the international community's will." You see, the key point of resolution 799 is the fact that it stresses the illegality of the deportation. There can be no negotiating that principle. We say to Rabin that it is not enough to reduce the number of deportees or their term of exile. If he believes in peace, he must have the courage to review the entire measure.

[De Giovannangeli] Do you not think that drastic rejection of the Israeli proposal could isolate the Palestinians on an international level.

[Al-Husayni] I do not think so for one minute. That is proven by the numerous calls for the deportees to be repatriated, repeated, even after the Israeli proposal, by individual governments, international bodies, and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali himself. No, we do not feel isolated. If anything, it is Israel which has international credibility problems. Indeed the proposal for compromise comes from its awareness of this isolation. But that is not the way that Yitzhaq Rabin is going to convince the Palestinian people and the Arab world of his real will to build a just and stable peace in the Middle East.

[De Giovannangeli] But the Israeli premier has stated several times that expelling the Hamas activists would facilitate dialogue and even strengthen the "moderate" Palestinians' position.

[Al-Husayni] I would really like Rabin to pay a visit to Gaza and the West Bank: It would be the best way for him to realize what a present he has given Hamas. Today those 415 Palestinians have become a symbol of an entire people's resistance. The Israeli prime minister can say what he likes but he cannot claim to have helped those in the Palestinian camp who have fought and are fighting for dialogue and negotiation. The truth is that the deportation has dealt a very hard blow to the peace process.

[De Giovannangeli] So have the hopes raised by the Madrid conference 15 months ago been dashed?

[Al-Husayni] Not yet, not completely. For our part, even faced with the deportation of the 415 Palestinians, we have reiterated the validity of the policy of dialogue adopted four years ago during the National Council meeting in Algiers. And that despite pressure from fundamentalists and certain Arab regimes. We have consented to discuss the merits of transitional autonomy for the occupied territories, and we have recognized the right of a Jewish state to exist in the Middle East and to have security. It is on that basis that we sat down at the negotiating table. But no one can ask us today to continue negotiating with an interlocutor who violates international law and tramples on the most elementary human rights. It would be political suicide. And we are not prepared to commit that.

[De Giovannangeli] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres recently launched a proposal for free elections in the occupied territories. What is your reply to that?

[Al-Husayni] The essential issue is what we are called upon to elect. If it is a political body with powers of legislation, I say to Peres: We agree; we can vote tomorrow. But Israel is still sticking to the hypothesis of a purely administrative Palestinian Council. That is

unacceptable to us. Before anything else, all the deportees must be repatriated. The very credibility of the new U.S. Administration is at stake: To support Israel in its refusal to fully implement the UN resolution would mean to perpetuate the old double standards policy in the Middle East. That would truly be a sad beginning for Bill Clinton.

Labeling Hamas Terrorist Called 'Outrageous'

JN0502144593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Feb 93
pp 24, 19

[Text] A responsible source in Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement has made the following statement:

Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Edward Djerejian has given strange interpretation to the unprecedented step of his administration, namely the inclusion of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on the U.S. State Department's annual list of terrorist organizations, under the pretext that Hamas is opposed to the peace talks.

The U.S. official's statement conflicts with reasonable logic and the right of individuals and groups to freely express their ideological and political viewpoints.

Opposition or support for any political or ideological issue is a protected right under international law, heavenly laws, and human norms. It is astonishing that the United States has made itself a judge who labels groups, organizations, and entire nations.

The majority of our Palestinian people have expressed their strong opposition to the current settlement process. Does this latest U.S. step mean that all our people should appear on the list of terrorists?

Several organizations in the Zionist entity reject the settlement process and call for expelling the Arabs from their land, and for not relinquishing a single inch of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This being the case, why does the United States not take similar measures against those people?

The U.S. insistence on taking measures against Hamas is an outrageous, hostile action that is sure to expose the U.S. double standard toward people in this region, and the biased U.S. policy toward the Zionist entity at the expense of legitimate Palestinian and Arab rights.

We lament the fact that Rabin's government seems to have been able to force the U.S. Administration to wage war on Israel's behalf against the Palestinian people's spirit of liberation and independence.

Through this action, the U.S. Administration shows its tendency toward hostility, and is dangerously provoking the feelings of Arabs and Muslims instead of beginning its term in office with serious and effective dialogue, and dealing with objective facts in the region, including the possibility of accepting an opposing viewpoint or political ideology.

Algeria

SONATRACH Director Holds News Conference

LD0802204893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The director general of SONATRACH [Societe National pour la Recherche, la Production, le Transport, la Transformation et la Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures] held a news conference today in which he gave a general assessment of SONATRACH's activities during 1992. The figures given show that the annual income from petroleum fell by 1 billion dollars from that in 1991. Meanwhile, the company hopes to sign more contracts with foreign companies. Here is a report by Abdelkader Mam, presented by Faouzia Bedi:

[Bedi] SONATRACH's annual news conference was held today to give the preliminary 1992 results. The meeting was attended by a group of journalists from various media institutions. The most important result we noted was the gross production of petroleum, which reached 2 million barrels per day, equivalent to 116 million tonnes, out of which 1.7 million is for export and 300 million is for domestic consumption. [sentence as heard] [SONATRACH's director general] said the income from last year's production was about 11 billion dollars. This 11 billion dollars should be compared with the 12 billion dollars in 1991. That is a fall of 1 billion dollars. However, the overall performance of SONATRACH was not bad. As for SONATRACH's profits, they are estimated at 20 billion dinar in 1992. [passage omitted]

Gas Exports Reach Record Level

LD0802230793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] SONATRACH's contracts for the exportation of natural and liquefied gas in 1992 amounted to about 56 billion square meters, reaching its maximum production capacity. This was stressed today by director general of the enterprise, Mr. Abdelhak Bouhafs. He made clear that SONATRACH signed three new contracts in 1992 for 12 billion square meters. Exports reached a record of 35 billion square meters in 1992, against 33 billion square meters in 1991 and less than 30 billion square meters in 1988-1989, according to a recent statement by one of SONATRACH's assistant directors. Algeria expects to double its gas exports from 1995-1996, to reach about 70 billion square meters, especially after the commissioning of the Western pipeline to carry gas between the Arab Maghreb and Europe and the (laying of another pipeline) alongside the one crossing the Mediterranean.

Plans for New Oil Exploration

LD0902114693 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 09/02/93 (APS)—The national firm of hydrocarbons, SONATRACH, intends to invest in 1993

more than 60 billion dinars whose 60 percent in currencies, for the exploration and the drilling of new wells, the general manager of the enterprise, Abdelhak Bouhafs declared during a press conference given on Monday [8 February] here.

It is before all to maintain a level of production by exploring other fields, with the participation of a great number of foreign companies. The investment can be brought to 70 billion of dinars considering "optional projects" such as the achievement of 70 drillings in associations with foreign partners, and 35 drillings with means proper to SONATRACH.

Bouhafs recalled that in 1992, nine contracts were signed with mainly Anglo-Saxon firms which are added to those signed in majority with European firms, which started, he pointed out, "an important diversification of our partnership".

Since 1986, SONATRACH concluded a total of 27 contracts of exploration on an objective of one hundred in the medium term.

On another turn, SONATRACH general manager said that the crude production of hydrocarbons reached, in 1992, about 162.3 million tons equivalent of petroleum (TEP), an increase from 2 to 3 million TEP as to 1991, but the value of exports is situated at about 11 billion dollars, in a fall of 1 billion dollars as to 1991, because of the fall of the oil medium world prices.

The volume of the production of hydrocarbons achieved during the last three years (2 million barrels per day) was maintained in 1992, as well as the volume of exports (1.7 million barrels per day), a result considered as "positive" by Bouhafs.

On another turn, SONATRACH put into service in 1992, new installations or fields such as gas lift in Rhourde el Baguel and in Haoud Berkauoui, and recently the production of four fields in Rhourde Chouf and Rhourde Hamra for the gas and Hassi Guettar and Hassi Chergui for oils.

New techniques were also introduced in fields of activities among Bouhafs cited the first horizontal drilling in Hassi a result which he said, opens new prospects to improve the production of oil and gas fields.

Among these new techniques, there is the introduction of the Distributed Control System (DCS) to improve the viability and optimize the exploitation of SONATRACH plants.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Relations With Sudan, Iraq

NC0802205093 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1922 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [No dateline as received] Following an inauguration and inspection of AL-AHRAM's new building,

President Husni Mubarak met the chief editors of AL-AHRAM's affiliated publications. [passage omitted]

Sayyid Yasin, director of AL-AHRAM's Center of Political and Strategic Studies: According to political tradition, when the Egyptian state boycotts another country, non-official contacts take place solely through the opposition. Why do not we allow the centers of studies and research—in genuine coordination [with the government]—to hold dialogue with countries that have no dialogue with the state, such as Iraq and Sudan?

President Mubarak: I have full confidence in the Egyptian centers of research. Egyptian researchers and intellectuals act with a sense of commitment to the country. There is no objection to opening such dialogue with Sudan. They [Sudanese officials] complain that we meet with the Sudanese opposition. We told them that they also meet with the Egyptian opposition.

As for Iraq, I was sincere in all the advice I gave Saddam Husayn. I formulate my policies carefully, in reaction to Egyptian public sentiment and in a way that maintains Egyptian credibility. Concerning Iraq, it is a matter of time. We, in Egypt, base our policies on principles. I will not allow Egypt to be insulted.

Mursi 'Atallah, AL-AHRAM's chief editor: Did Yasir 'Arafat convey to you a message from Saddam Husayn?

President Mubarak: Yes; however, relations are based on mutual confidence. When I speak, I do so on behalf of Egypt. I protect Egypt's dignity and do not tolerate insults to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Remarks on Current Issues Cited

NC0802175093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1510 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Remarks by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following a meeting between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and writers, intellectuals, and chief editors, at the AL-AHRAM building in Cairo on 8 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In a meeting today, President Mubarak answered questions from writers, intellectuals, and a number of chief editors of Egyptian newspapers. [passage omitted]

Mubarak answered a question about the qualifications of mosque preachers, saying that they need to be trained appropriately to ensure they convey the true message of Islam to the country's youth. Mubarak said that certain individuals, claiming knowledge they do not possess, are misleading the youth with wrong concepts, adding that such individuals use Friday sermons to foment sedition. Mubarak said only state-licensed preachers are allowed to speak over the pulpit in several Arab countries.

The president said that Friday sermons should only be delivered by appropriately trained ulema. The president mentioned that certain regulations have been enforced

on this issue. He added that the construction of small mosques was going on unplanned. Mubarak said that extremist groups have received some ill-advised support under the slogan of combating communism. This was a mistake, he added, because communism had no prospect of spreading in our society for many reasons. The president said that certain regulations are now in force and that the state will not tolerate attempts to delude society and the youth. The state, he said, will deal firmly with any action that aims to manipulate society through intellectual intimidation or terror.

Mubarak said Egypt is committed to freedom and democracy. The people, he said, are capable of distinguishing between right and wrong. The president said that what is at issue is not forums [reference to a term used in the seventies to denote pluralism] but something of more wide-reaching consequences. Some newspapers, he said, deceive the youth, propagate misguided ideas, and instigate actions that conflict with legitimacy and patriotism.

President Mubarak said that despite all, he is committed to the value of freedom and has no plans to confiscate any newspaper. We are successfully getting to the point where people will be able to pass their own judgment on various ideas and dismiss incorrect ones. The people, the president said, are capable of correcting and criticizing any unhealthy ideas. [passage omitted]

The president answered questions on foreign policy as well. Concerning Egyptian-Sudanese relations, President Mubarak said that the two countries have long-standing ties that will not be affected by any differences of opinion. There are no differences between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, the president said.

President Mubarak gave an honest appraisal of the course of relations between Egypt and Sudan and attempts by certain quarters to trigger crises in the relations since 1952. He said that snags have always appeared in bilateral ties but that the two peoples have been able to overcome them. President Mubarak said that Egypt is eager to maintain good relations with its sisterly Arab countries while safeguarding its own soil and borders and preserving its sovereignty. President Mubarak said that sovereignty and the right of citizens to move between the two countries are two different things.

The president discussed attempts by certain quarters to export terror to Egypt, saying that the Egyptian security services are fully aware of such attempts and the locations in which terrorists are being trained abroad.

The president answered a question on the Palestinian deportees and the issue's impact on the Middle East peace talks, saying that Egypt is doing all it can on the matter, including employing its relations with Israel, the United States, and the international community to solve the problem. Mubarak reviewed the outcome of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel. The president said that the peace talks have already begun and it is important to keep the dialogue going. He added that we should

not imagine that the 40-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict will be resolved overnight. We need resolve and determination to reach results compatible with legitimate Arab rights, he said.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Syria's al-Asad

NC0702163693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. During the conversation, the two leaders discussed current issues and the latest developments in the region.

Mubarak Leaves for Unannounced Talks in Syria

NC0902103593 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, Feb 9 (AFP)—President Husni Mubarak left here Tuesday [9 February] for unannounced talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, an AFP correspondent at the airport reported.

Mubarak's trip, his second to Syria in less than a month, comes a week ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East aimed at reviving the peace process.

Mubarak Telephones King Fahd

NC0602195493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight telephoned Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The telephone conversation comes in the framework of the continued exchanges between the two Arab leaders concerning issues of import to the Arab and Muslim people.

Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Arrives for Visit

NC0802162593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi crown prince and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Cairo today on a visit to Egypt. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi welcomed him at the airport.

Meets With Mubarak

LD0802211193 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2025 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Feb, (SPA)—His Excellency [HE] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, received at his home in Misr Al-Jadidah this evening His Royal Highness [HRH] Amir 'Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, who conveyed to His Excellency greetings from

his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God support him. [passage omitted] This was followed by a closed meeting, which was limited to HE President Mubarak and HRH Amir Abdullah Bin Abd Al-Aziz. [passage omitted]

Leaves Cairo 9 Feb

NC0902122393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz left Cairo this afternoon after a one-day visit to Egypt, during which he met President Husni Mubarak.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi saw the Saudi crown prince off at the airport.

Swedish Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC0802211293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1941 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas arrived in Cairo this evening on a four-day visit to Egypt. She was met at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

The Swedish minister said she will hold talks with senior Egyptian officials on the peace process, adding that she will hear the Egyptian view in view of Egypt's important role in the Arab world. She said the problem of the Palestinian deportees must be solved on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 799. She described Israel's decision to allow 100 deportees to return as a step in the right direction but said other steps must be taken to return all the deportees.

Af Ugglas affirmed Sweden's support for efforts to promote the peace process. She praised Egyptian-Swedish bilateral relations, saying there is a lot of room to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Foreign Minister Musa said the Egyptian-Swedish talks will deal with the peace process and Europe's role in it, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the CSCE and its role in relations among the Mediterranean states. He said Sweden has contacts with the Israeli Government and is participating in the multilateral talks. Therefore, a lot of topics will be discussed.

Meets With 'Amr Musa

NC0902105793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The first round of Egyptian-Swedish talks was held at the Foreign Ministry today. The Egyptian side was led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa while Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas headed the Swedish side.

In a statement at the end of the talks, Musa said that the two sides discussed developments in the Middle East. He said that the talks will resume tomorrow evening and will touch on the situation in Europe and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and its connection with the Mediterranean Sea. The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina will also be discussed, he added.

The foreign minister noted that the talks will deal with the relations between Egypt and Sweden and ways to promote them in the various domains, particularly economics.

Mubarak Receives UAE President's Message

NC0602110393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0924 GMT 6
Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received an oral message today from President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] when he received UAE Ambassador Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahmud.

Following the meeting, the ambassador stated that the message deals with bilateral relations, which he described as special and more than excellent.

Al-Baz on New U.S. Administration, World Order

NC0802220693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 8
Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that the purpose of his recent long visit to the United States was to prepare the way for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's upcoming visit.

Speaking at a seminar this evening, al-Baz said the visit aimed at making an early exploration of the thinking of the new U.S. Administration, although contact had been made with it before President Bill Clinton's inauguration. He noted, however, that this earlier contact had been limited in nature.

Al-Baz explained that the purpose of these exploratory moves is not merely to feel out the new administration's thinking but also to influence it and present it with the Egyptian view on international events and Cairo's expectations of the new U.S. Administration. He added that there are many outstanding issues for discussion, including the Palestinian deportees and the issue's effect on the peace process.

Dr. al-Baz said Israel miscalculated possible reaction when it deported the Palestinians. He said this has now become a problem and an obstacle to peace, adding: Because we want to eliminate this obstacle, it was natural for us to contact the United States. Our instructions were to contain the situation and attain an acceptable solution while keeping in mind the strategic aim of pursuing the peace process.

He said he hopes this crisis will be resolved soon so that we can establish peace in the form of agreements between the Arabs, notably the Palestinians, and Israel. He explained that this peace relationship must be balanced, equal, and expressive of the two sides' wish to live in peace, free from the concept of war and impermanent military superiority.

Commenting on ties with Sudan, al-Baz said the Egyptian-Sudanese relationship is a special one that has grown from the bonds and mutual interests between the two nations. He confirmed that the Hala'ib issue must not damage bilateral ties and added that the 1899 agreement marked the border and said that territory lying north of the 22d parallel is Egyptian territory.

He explained that if the dispute is about certain arrangements between the two countries, Egypt has always acknowledged that the Sudanese people have major educational, labor, and trade rights in Egypt. He noted that 4 million Sudanese live in Egypt. Commenting on the claim that the issue is one of administrative borders, al-Baz said such talk is improper because administrative borders lie within a country's political borders. He said that an Egyptian interior minister had once granted travel facilities to tribes living in the areas to enable them to look for water resources but that had not constituted an alteration of the border. He remarked that the Hala'ib issue can be resolved through the committee formed for this purpose, which met twice in March and October 1992.

Discussing the new world order, Dr. al-Baz said some people think this order rests on the USSR's collapse as a superpower and the ascendancy of the United States to the position of sole superpower. He announced that this is an incorrect concept.

He added that the new world order, currently at a formative stage, is based on cooperation, adding: We are not living in the U.S. era; we are in the era of international balances.

He noted that the new powers include the united European powers, the United States, Japan, and the rapidly developing countries allied to it which are called the tigers, the Russian Federation—qualified to become a major power before the end of the century—and China.

Dr. al-Baz said major regional powers might also arise, such as India in Asia, Egypt in Africa, and Brazil and Argentina in South America.

He said that under the new world order, a country's power will lie in its economic, not military, prowess and that political power might come in second. He added that a country's cultural power will also count.

Dr. al-Baz said that recourse to war is no longer possible in light of modern laws and restrictions, adding that the world is moving toward general disarmament and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. al-Baz warned that the new world order includes some negative aspects that require vigilance. He added that among these aspects is the right to intervene in other countries' internal affairs via the advocacy of new values, such as the defense of democracy and human rights. He said that apart from military action, such intervention can occur through the major industrial and commercial companies and by means of sophisticated technology.

Clinton Rejection of Bosnia Peace Plan Praised

NC0902093193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Feb 93 p 5

[Editorial: "We Hope Good Start Will Continue"]

[Text] Finally, new U.S. President Bill Clinton did something to assert his presence on the world stage approximately two weeks after entering the White House. He announced his rejection of the peace plan worked out by international envoys former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and former British Foreign Secretary David Owen. The plan calls for dividing the mostly Muslim Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 autonomous regions. It is a malevolent plan that ignores the barbarian aggression and ethnic cleansing operations carried out by the Serbian gangs against the Bosnian people during the past 10 months. It advances a solution rewarding the aggressor and serving its goals while ignoring all the crimes that are still going on against the most basic human rights. It disregards violations of international law and turns a blind eye to the Security Council's clear resolution demanding the Serbs stop their aggression, withdraw their troops immediately, and suspend air flights over the attacked republics.

Clinton is officially still in the honeymoon period in which he is given enough time to study world problems before making important decisions about them. But the atrocities being committed in broad daylight against the Bosnian Muslims and Europe's vague stance on the issue, explicitly conniving with Serbian extremists, have prompted the U.S. President to voice Washington's clear position on the injustice done to a minority people. These people defend themselves courageously in an unequal battle against an enemy that has unlimited access to the arsenal and oil of the collapsing federal Yugoslavia and receives additional backing from several European states, despite the international sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Serbia and Montenegro.

The U.S. Administration has more than once confirmed the existence of detention camps set up by the criminal Serbs to lock up thousands of Bosnians, who are tortured, murdered, and raped in a manner the world has never known, not even in the camps set up by Nazi Germany during World War II. This constitutes a burden that cannot be removed from the history of the civilized world. We hope U.S. President Clinton will continue his efforts to deter these barbarians and try

them as war criminals, making this the first great achievement to be credited to his new administration.

'Limited Optimism' on U.S. Stand on Bosnia Noted

NC0802070193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR writes that despite the new U.S. stand which rejects the plan to partition Bosnia and describes the plan as unfair to Muslims, optimism over such a shift in this stand will continue to be limited until the characteristics of the new U.S. policy materialize and President Bill Clinton goes beyond generalities to more specific details.

The paper notes that although this stand sounds fair to the party that is being subjected to aggression and is bound to aggravate differences between the United States and its European allies, one has to look into the underlying causes of that U.S. shift.

AL-AKHBAR points out that the two international mediators sought not only to win Washington's support for the plan to partition Bosnia, but also to get it to participate in the NATO forces which would enforce the plan. Therefore, Europe struck a sensitive vein at a time when Clinton's differences with the U.S. military institution are increasing.

Moreover, the paper adds, Clinton assumed office with the U.S. forces still in Somalia and around Iraq and amid a military escalation over Haiti. Meanwhile, Clinton's administration is still unable to determine the basis for foreign military intervention.

'Bad Beginning' Said for Clinton on Deportees

NC0502215893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Feb 93 p 8

["Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah]

[Excerpts] At last, the United States has caved in to Israel's terrorism and approved a deal designed to circumvent the UN Security Council resolution on the Palestinian deportees' issue. Under the deal, 100 deportees will return now and the rest in a year.

It is a piecemeal solution that rewards Israel for two crimes: The crime of violating human rights and the Geneva Convention by deporting over 400 Palestinians without any specific charges and the crime of violating and not implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the return of all the deportees without exception. Thus, Israel has succeeded in subjugating the U.S. Administration to its whims.

The way the Clinton administration has acted so far in its handling of the Middle East problem is a bad beginning, which does not give rise to hope that the United

States will adopt a balanced policy in the Arab-Israeli conflict or play a positive role in promoting the peace process. [passage omitted]

The natural outcome of this U.S.-Israeli deal under which the United States has pledged to resume the peace talks even if the deportees refuse to return is the codification [taqnin] of the expulsion and banishment measures the Israeli authorities are applying against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and ultimately making these measures appear palatable and justifiable. This is contrary to what some believe is the beginning of the return of the deportees or recognizing their right to return. Otherwise, what is the meaning of Israel allowing 100 deportees to return and depriving 300 others of this right without any legal basis?

So long as Israel has been assured by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's pledges that the Security Council will not touch one hair of Israel's head, why should it respect international law?

More importantly, this Israeli-U.S. deal apparently contains other undisclosed clauses dealing with putting the Palestinian Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] group on the list of terrorist groups. This measure places the Palestinian people at the mercy of the Israeli security services and makes the United States a subservient agent of the classifications and descriptions invented by Israel.

All these are signs and indications that the peace talks will not find the proper atmosphere to be completed despite all the superficial justifications made by the United States and Israel on the pretext of salvaging these talks.

Clinton Called 'Typical Politician' on Israel

NC0602114193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 Feb 93
p 3

[From the "Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[Text] I once wrote that President Clinton has been facing difficult and embarrassing situations from the first day he became President of the United States and that none of his predecessors have faced such a situation. The reason might be that we are at a stage labelled as the start of a new world order led or dominated by the United States without any competitor or equal. The United States is trying to be the world's leader. The right leadership needs justice, and justice requires that personal interests be put aside. A judge does not preside over a case to which he is a party. If he has to judge a case and be fair, then he issues his ruling according to the yardstick of justice alone and not according to the yardstick of his personal interests.

Therefore, there is only one way for Clinton to end his embarrassment; namely to support justice and what they call international legitimacy and international laws, charters, and conventions. But if he does so, then he will not be able to protect Israel and support it. He has

pledged to support Israel and this is a principle that he and all U.S. Presidents have followed. The exception was Eisenhower, who ordered Israel, England, and France to withdraw from Egypt in 1959 [date as published]. He thus put an end to the era of old colonialism and began the era of U.S. hegemony following its victorious emergence from World War II armed with the nuclear bomb which it dropped on Japan. All the Presidents since Eisenhower have regarded Israel as their spoiled child. During the presidential campaign, Clinton was eager to declare this publicly to gain the U.S. Jewish vote in the elections.

Clinton, therefore, cannot be regarded as a neutral judge or the ideally fair leader, but as a typical politician concerned with his personal interests. He says these interests are the homeland's interests, and he might think or claim that they also are those of the entire world and of international peace. When a person dabbles in politics, he finds justifications for all his actions and decisions. He will turn a blind eye to absolute justice if this justice is not in his favor.

We all must understand this and not expect anything else from politicians. We need to study, analyze, and frankly debate the reasons why the Americans are biased towards Israel at the expense of the Arabs. It is inadequate and unconvincing to say that the reason for this has been the Jewish vote in all the presidential elections. There must be many other reasons why the United States always takes the Israeli side. These other reasons need to be discussed, explained, and analyzed.

Sources Cited on Rapprochement With Iran

PM0902154193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Reopening of Iranian Interests Office Prepares Ground for Resumption of Relations With Egypt"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Prominent Egyptian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Iranian Interests Office in Cairo will be reopened soon within the framework of the improvement in relations between Egypt and Iran as a result of Syrian mediation.

The sources pointed out that Damascus is arranging an Egyptian-Iranian diplomatic meeting with a view to achieving rapprochement between the two countries in preparation for the resumption of relations between them.

The sources did not rule out the resumption of direct contacts between the two countries to discuss the conclusive settlement of Egyptian-Iranian disagreements and raising the level of diplomatic representation between them following the upcoming Damascus meetings.

A noticeable calm has replaced the media and political attacks between Cairo and Tehran following the statements made by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he stressed his eagerness to strengthen bilateral relations with Egypt and offered a future view of how relations could return to normal.

Egyptian political circles linked the improvement in the negotiating position between the countries and the guarded calm in Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the wake of the agreement to resume the joint committee's discussion of the Hala'ib issue, while Tehran once again categorically denied to Cairo—via Syria—its responsibility for exporting terrorist elements or schemes and stressed its ties with Egypt with regard to the various issues of concern to the Islamic world.

Iranian President's Remarks Criticized

NC0602120993 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Feb 93 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] It is not conceited to say that Egypt is shouldering most of the burden in finding a solution to the Palestinian deportees problem. Its position was made clear from the beginning. It has insisted and continues to insist on the need to return the deportees to their homes.

In taking this course, Egypt is pursuing a firm and well-defined policy—which it formulated according to its own free will and without expecting any reward or thanks—because it is fully aware of its pan-Arab and international responsibilities.

Therefore, the statement made by "brother" Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the start of his reelection campaign—that his country is ready to restore relations with Egypt if Cairo pursues a firmer policy toward Israel—is surprising!

Hashemi-Rafsanjani thus has made a mistake from the start, because his statement implies semi-interference in the affairs of others. Egypt repeatedly has warned against such a thing. Egypt clearly has emphasized that Tehran's commitment to noninterference in the affairs of others is a principal condition for restoring relations.

We are the ones who evaluate our policy toward Israel, and we are the ones who define its priorities. We firmly object to this policy becoming the subject of discussion or argument or, in fact, the subject of oneupmanship by any party. This applies to our policy toward Israel as well as toward all the countries of the world, in the East or West. We are the only ones who can measure things carefully.

At the same time, it should be understood that Iran is the one which sends messengers to us, aiming to restore relations. It is obvious that the one who initiates a request does not make conditions. The Iranians' actions

perhaps are contrary to their deeds, but such behavior does not change the fact or the existing reality.

Finally, my advice to brother Rafsanjani—as he launches his election campaign—is not to open doors that he cannot close. Iran is not the one that should talk about firm positions toward Israel, because the links between them are close and deep, their interests are mutual, and the "common" benefits exceed all imagination! This is exactly when they attack Washington, while contacts with the United States have not ceased for one day and the cordial ties are growing stronger. It is enough to note that the Iranian ayatollahs prefer American clothes and food and American films, which they watch secretly in their private bedrooms.

Mubarak, al-Sharif Meet Algerian Minister

NC0802170293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Habib Chaouki Hamraoui, Algerian culture and communications minister today in a meeting also attended by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Culture Minister Faruq Husni.

Following the meeting, the Algerian minister said he conveyed to his excellency the president the regards of Algerian Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi. He added that he also explained to President Mubarak Algeria's wish to promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries' information and cultural departments.

Minister al-Sharif said that President Mubarak asked Hamraoui to convey an oral message to the Algerian leader about several Arab issues and the challenges confronting collective Arab action. He added that President Mubarak mentioned the close relationship between the two fraternal nations and stressed that there is a lot of room for cooperation between their cultural, information, and other institutions.

Minister al-Sharif held a round of talks with the visiting Algerian minister, who welcomed the Egyptian Space Channel's broadcasts to Algeria, saying that it provides an Arab alternative to foreign channels. He also praised bilateral cultural and information cooperation.

Minister al-Sharif said that during the Algerian minister's visit, the two countries will sign protocols organizing information cooperation between the two countries. They will also agree to exchange visits by radio and television officials.

South African PAC Official Meets With Musa

MB0602124093 Johannesburg SATURDAY STAR in English 6 Feb 93 p 8

[Report by Neil Moorhouse: "Bullets are the answer until broad ballot"]

[Text] Cairo—The Pan Africanist Congress [PAC] would not give up its armed struggle until the ballot was secured for all citizens, regardless of race, the organisation's foreign affairs secretary Gora Ebrahim said during a week-long visit to Egypt.

After meeting Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Ebrahim said it was inevitable that the senseless killings in the townships would spill over into the white neighbourhoods. "Only a quickening of the electoral process, based on democratic, nonracial principles, can stop this," he said.

Quoted by the semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper, Ebrahim warned Egypt of the South African Government's alleged use of African and European mercenaries from neighbouring African countries and other parts of the world. He pointed out that 119 people had died in police custody in 1992, and that the Government had failed to account for these deaths.

"As long as Government-instigated violence continues, the PAC is under no obligation to suspend its armed struggle", he said.

During his stay at the invitation of the Egyptian government, Ebrahim called on Egypt to assist in reconvening the Patriotic Front, particularly in view of Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU.

Egypt has made moves in the last year to strengthen ties with all the various political parties in South Africa. Last year, it provided a training course in diplomacy for PAC and ANC [African National Congress] members. Al-Ahram said training was also provided in the police force, especially in customs. No training was, however, provided for the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army.

Egypt has seen South Africa as a vital trading partner, but has delayed restoring diplomatic links until elections are held for a fully representative government. The opening of a South African mission in Egypt has been delayed until the middle of this year.

Further Arab Pressure on Israel, U.S. Urged

NC0602143793 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 Feb 93
p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Ahmad Taha al-Naqr:
"The New Legitimacy?"]

[Text] The Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in south Lebanon did well when they rejected the Israeli offer to allow 100 of them back and asserted that either they all go back to their homeland together or stay in exile together.

This Israeli offer—which the United States cheered because it thought it would absolve it from the charge of pursuing a double standard in the Middle East—was a blatant attempt to circumvent international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions that call on Israel to allow the deportees back immediately.

It has been proven beyond any doubt that Israel is the spoiled daughter of the United States, master of the new world order, and that Washington always will intervene at the proper time to protect Israel from the sword of international sanctions, regardless of the latter's violations and aggressions against the rights of Arabs and Palestinians and its threats to peace in the region. The regrettable and sad thing is that the resolutions of the "new" international legitimacy turn into missiles, bombs, and raids that do not spare even civilians when Iraq is involved, but remain mere ink on paper when the matter involves Israel!

It is not in the interest of the Arabs, the Palestinians, or the peace process to return to the vicious circle of the hollow peace negotiations with Israel while the latter maintains its intransigence and refusal to comply with the international will. By rejecting the UN resolutions, Israel has undermined the foundation of the peace process, which is based—as the United States, the negotiations sponsor, has said—on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Arabs should not miss this opportunity to tighten the siege on Israel and expose all those who bless its aggression against civilians and its continued occupation of the territories by continuing the pressure to hold a Security Council meeting to impose sanctions on Israel, even if the United States threatens to use its veto. The Arabs also have to adhere to the Palestinians' demands because they represent the minimum [of their rights]. They also must explain to the United States that its blind bias towards Israel threatens to cause the entire region to explode.

Israeli Offer, 'Arafat Visit to Iraq Criticized

NC0602203493 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3
Feb 93 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] The Arab countries and the PLO itself must not take a negative stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian deportees just because they belong to the "extremist" Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], because principles are not divisible and because Israel's policy of repression, arbitrariness, persecution, and nonrespect for international charters and treaties are rejected in form and substance. There are also ties of kinship with those who were compelled to leave their homes by force on a dark and gloomy day.

I say this on the occasion of what Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's UN envoy, said yesterday. He was "astonished" by the PLO's intervention in the deportees issue since the organization regards Hamas as its most dangerous foe. Here it must be made clear to the whole world and to Israel that inter-Arab differences are one thing and the Palestinian issue is something else. It is inconceivable that the PLO should make any of its people, whether they are inside or outside the occupied territories, easy

prey for Israel, which is using all ways and means to empty this land of its sons, regardless of their beliefs and identities.

In any event, it is solely in Israel's interest to have this problem solved all at once rather than splitting it into phases. There are several basic reasons for this:

1. The Israeli Government's agreement to let 100 deportees return implies, as Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said, a frank admission that all of them have been allowed back.
2. The PLO will not accept the idea of a piecemeal solution as this will keep the issue pending. This, in turn, will impede the peace negotiations and make the intifadah more intense and violent.
3. Having these Palestinians "inside" is much better than keeping them on the borders because the current situation incites feelings to such a degree that it might lead to the perpetration of some terrorist operations targeting Israeli civilians or the military.

The same applies to the United States, which should exert its utmost efforts to reach "a comprehensive and decisive solution" with Israel, especially as Bill Clinton took over only few days ago and it is his duty not to endanger his people's interests and to work to dissipate the doubts that have been cast over his administration in the same way that doubts are cast on any new president who occupies the top position for the first time.

Finally, there remains a whisper in the ear of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat: Would it not have been "smarter" not to go to Baghdad at this particular time and not to meet with Saddam?

I personally believe that the world should see a united Arab stand on the deportees issue, even if it is a nominal one. Your appearance with Saddam—regrettably—distorts the image we so desire.

Papers Denounce Deportee Spokesmen's 'Curses' NC0902112493

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 5, 6, and 7 February, Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic on 5 and 7 February, and Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic, Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic, and Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic on 6 February all publish articles that take issue with anti-Egyptian statements attributed to Palestinian deportees spokesmen 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi and 'Abdallah al-Shami.

In the first of the three AL-JUMHURIYAH articles, all published in Samir Rajab's "Dividing Lines" column on page 14, Rajab, chairman of the newspaper's board of directors, warns the deportees that if they use their case for "cheap profiteering" or attempt to "offend those who deserve the greatest credit, their loss will be greater."

Rajab cites al-Rantisi as saying: "Egypt supports Israeli terrorism and backs the Hebrew state's intransigent refusal to comply with the world community's wishes. Consequently it has lost its moral values."

Rajab defends Egypt's position on the deportations and its record on the Palestinian issue, saying that had it not been for Egypt, the issue would "long ago have been consigned to oblivion and the occupied territories would have been cleared of their residents."

In the second article, Rajab says that while "numerous Arab parties" took a spectator's role or merely issued statements of denunciation and condemnation, Egypt used its influence to try to solve the crisis, conducting "high-level contacts that profoundly affected the United States and Israel." He declares that Egypt wants no thanks or acknowledgement from anyone, but states that Israel amended its position and announced its willingness to allow 100 deportees to return as a result of Egypt's "arduous" efforts. He continues: "Perhaps this solution is not enough, but it greatly reduced the Israeli intransigence and created an appropriate climate for pursuing the same path. Egypt did not refrain from openly declaring that all the deportees must return so that the peace negotiations might resume without problems."

He says that if al-Rantisi's accusation that Egypt "supports Israeli terrorism" shows anything, it shows an unparalleled moral dissolution and an unprecedented low level of conduct." Rajab adds: "Al-Rantisi has shown that the reward for charity is not charity, but offense in its worst form."

The writer notes that this accusation followed a visit by an Egyptian Bar Association delegation to the Palestinian deportees, which the Lebanese Government permitted only after the delegation falsely claimed it was a "media team." The delegation included the following "strange personalities":

"Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna, 'Abdallah Muhammad Salim, Yusuf Kamal (all members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood).

"Tahani al-Jibali (a Nasirite) and Muhammad Ibrahim Fazza' (National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party)."

Rajab asks if the "phony" lawyers' delegation or the "extremist groups" who control their association can do anything for the deportees.

In the third article, Rajab says: "Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isma't 'Abd-al-Majid told me yesterday: Had I imagined that those Palestinian deportees would some day attack Egypt, I would never have thought of visiting them, because only the ungrateful would deny what Egypt has done and continues to do for the deportees."

The writer adds: "The deportees will gradually lose the sympathy they gained for their cause and—by their own deeds, not those of others—will close the door to a solution! This has long been the habit of the Palestinians in general! I oppose the argument that says al-Rantisi and al-Shami have

been dragged into attacking Egypt and that they are victims of malicious groups that ruthlessly exploited their bad conditions. The curses against the people of Egypt by the deportees spokesman and his colleague the Islamic Jihad spokesman were premeditated, simply because such people often work for certain elements that move them as they wish, even during the darkest crises, as long as they get paid at the end."

In its article, on pages 1 and 8, AKHBAR AL-YAWM's Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah says: "This is not the first time our brothers—the spokesmen for the Palestinian cause—have received our efforts with such ingratitude." The writer, his tone sarcastic, tells Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to convene an international news conference in Cairo to announce that Egypt demands the deportees' immediate return, Arab withdrawal from the peace process, an unconditional Israeli pullout from Palestine, and Arab readoption of the three no's that followed the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. If Egypt does this, Sa'dah continues, it will win the respect of all Palestinians and will be hailed, just like Saddam Husayn, as the only Arab country that defends the Palestinian cause.

In AL-AKHBAR's 5 February front page editorial, Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar expresses astonishment at the "contradiction" between the deportees' earlier praise of Egypt and "the attack and criticism the day before yesterday [3 February]" of Egypt. He adds: "The accepted justification, of course, is the introduction of new factors that change the positions. To make things clear, the signs are that an Iranian role was behind this change, exploiting Iran's suspect relationship with the ' Hamas' group to which the deportees belong." Duwaydar continues: "The deportees spokesman's new attitude also follows a visit [to their camp] by the representatives of a group that profits by Islam in Egypt and was dismayed by the praise given to Egypt and its role in trying to solve the deportees' crisis, something Egypt did because it appreciates its pan-Arab responsibility."

In AL-AHRAM's article on pages 1 and 3, Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' criticizes the Palestinians for asking for help and then "leveling abuse" at brothers if the solution is not "100 percent to their liking." He concludes by saying the Egyptians were not looking for "thanks," but were simply stunned at the Palestinians' "awful habit of throwing stones at friends and foes alike."

AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I carries an editorial on page 2 entitled "The Deportees and the Egyptian Position," which defends Egypt's efforts and notes that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the Israeli acknowledgement of the deportees' right to return was merely a step toward the solution, the return of all deportees." The editorial adds: "By their recent denunciation of the Egyptian position, the brother deportees have shown that they are politically inept and untrained in the language of diplomacy." It advises them to learn "the art" of politics and diplomacy.

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic in its 7 February issue carries a report on its front page saying that Palestinian

deportees' spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi denied criticizing Egypt's efforts to solve the deportees' problem. Al-Rantisi is quoted as saying: "I did not say this. I have not stopped thanking the Arab countries, particularly Egypt, for their positions." The report adds that al-Rantisi called the whole issue "an ignoble attempt to make Egypt stop supporting the deportees." The report also says: "' Abdallah al-Shami, spokesman for 50 Palestinian deportees who are members of Islamic Jihad, also denied remarks attacking Egypt that were attributed to him. He said he had no made such remarks."

AL-AKHBAR publishes a small box alongside the item, inside which are the words: "We welcome al-Rantisi's denial and his assertions of his appreciation of and gratitude for the Egyptian stance on the deportees' issue. Egypt's stance is in line with the pan-Arab responsibility that Egypt constantly assumes in connection with all Arab causes and the Palestinian issue in particular. Let everyone know that Egypt formulates its policy on the foregoing premise and has no interest other than the general Arab good."

Parliamentary Committee Comments on Deportees
NC0802222093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2054 GMT 8
Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—The People's Assembly's Arab Affairs Committee has stressed the importance of complying with the world community's wish and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the return of all the Palestinian deportees.

In a statement today, the committee said that Israel's decision to allow 100 deportees to return is merely one step forward and must be followed by the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolution.

The committee declared its support for President Husni Mubarak's position on the deportees and his persistent effort to resolve the Palestinian issue.

The committee saluted Egypt's active diplomatic efforts in dealing with this crisis and the country's sound and proper stance on all Arab causes, notably the Palestinian issue.

West's Policies Said Responsible for Saddam
NC0602162193 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Feb 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Roots of the Saddamite Problem"]

[Text] The fact that Iraq has expressed its commitment to the rules and bases of international relations, and the fact that Tariq 'Aziz has announced that his country is ready to respond to UN resolutions and set up normal relations with the West does not mean that we have finally reached the end of the Saddam story. Nor does it mean that the West has found a solution to its problem with Iraq. The recent air strikes on Iraq have revealed that the West is not capable of reaching a clear and coherent policy in its dealings with the problem of

Saddam and other similar problems. The punishment policy might succeed in destroying installations, airports, and factories. It could lead to temporary flexibility in stubborn and rigid stands. But, as proven during the two attack operations on Iraq two years ago and last month, it will not rectify the roots of the problem or eliminate them altogether.

If we look closely, we will find that the roots of the Saddamite problem are not far removed from the roots of the other problems of the Middle East, be they political or economic. The most dangerous and significant are the problem of the spread of nuclear weapons and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This means, respectively, that U.S. and Western inability to convince Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and reluctance to compel it to submit to international legitimacy and allow the Palestinian deportees to return to their homes threaten to thwart the humble beginnings of the peace process in the Middle East. All this means that there are big gaps in Western policies toward the region which will always allow Saddam Husayn, or someone like him, to violate these policies.

Relations To Be Established With Turkmenistan

NC0802151993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt and Turkmenistan today decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The two states signed a joint statement announcing the decision at the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow.

The statement reiterated the two countries' eagerness to develop relations in various fields within the framework of mutual respect, international legitimacy, and the UN Charter.

Premier, Deputy Cite Unemployment Figures

NC0802162693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Feb 93 p 1

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has said that the government would not mind returning state-run companies that lost money to their previous owners. He added that the government will present a draft law on a unified tax to the People's Assembly in the next two weeks, saying that the application of the law will increase revenues.

The prime minister stressed that the budget deficit is average and that economic activity is progressing.

Sidqi commented on remarks by Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the opposition at the People's Assembly, saying that unemployment is difficult to solve but that the government is confronting it by various means, including the introduction of the Social Fund. He explained that the fund will focus on training to allow the labor force to move from one sector to another without any dismissals. [passage omitted]

Speaking during the session, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri said the true unemployment figure stands at 1.4 million, or 10 percent of the labor force.

He said in the next stage the government will focus on rehabilitating factories to absorb more workers. He said the current production surplus is equal to our 1982 production, explaining that production has jumped to 70 billion Egyptian pounds. He said the next five-year plan will provide 2 million jobs. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister: Police 'Won' Antiterrorist Fight

NC0802200193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1853 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that security forces have won their battle against terrorist elements despite the occurrence of isolated incidents. He said security forces have apprehended most of the terrorist elements and that some fugitives are trying to prove their existence through desperate acts. We are confident, he added, that the final elimination of these elements is coming as soon as possible, God willing.

This information came in a speech Musa delivered today during his meeting with students of the Higher Institute of Cooperative Studies as part of Police Day celebrations. [passage omitted]

Musa asked those who call for peaceful dialogue with the extremist and terrorist groups to ask these elements to lay down their arms and abandon terrorism, stressing that the police, which are offering martyrs every day, are not naive enough to initiate a dialogue with those who carry guns and grenades.

Musa praised the citizens' cooperation with the police to eliminate the terrorist elements, saying the society has adopted a courageous stand toward these elements. He asked: Is it not a crime to kill tourists, soldiers, and Christians; to rob stores; and to throw bombs at innocent people? The police will continue their campaign to eradicate these elements, he continued.

Answering a question on the presence of terrorist training camps in Sudan, Musa said the defendants tried before the high military court in Alexandria admitted that such camps existed. He added, however, that these camps are not camps in the real sense; rather, training takes place in farms, old houses, and abandoned villages on the border. [passage omitted]

Shots Reportedly Fired at German Tourist Bus

NC0902132893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Several shots were fired at a tourist bus carrying 36 German tourists as it passed through a village in Manfalut district in upper Egypt today. No tourists were hurt. The shots were fired by unknown persons from the east bank of the Nile.

A security source said police patrols escorting the bus exchanged fire with the attackers. Security authorities have identified the attackers and are trying to apprehend them.

Interior Minister Vows To Capture Bus Attackers

NC0902173093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1657 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stressed that the security services are continuing their efforts to capture the outlaws who are trying to shake Egypt's security and stability by attacking the tourist industry.

Commenting on the attack on a tour bus in Manfalut, Upper Egypt, today, the minister said security forces will capture the perpetrators and foil their designs.

Musa stressed that none of the German tourists was hurt in the attack.

Third Person Arrested in 4 Feb. Tourist Bus Attack

NC0602155793 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1422 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Interior Ministry public security organs, in cooperation with the state security investigation department, have succeeded in detaining the third defendant in the incident in which explosive charges were hurled at a Shahrzade Tours bus on the morning of 4 February. The bus was coming from a five-star hotel in the pyramids area to the Egyptian Museum in al-Tahrir Square. Major General Hilmi al-Fiqqi, public security department director, and Maj. Gen. Fadi al-Habashi, director of the investigation department at the Interior Ministry, interrogated defendant Ahmad 'Abd-al-Maqsud, who was detained at the scene of the attack, and learned that he agreed to attack the bus with Hasan al-Sakran. They prepared a number of Molotov cocktails in the former's apartment in Imbabah while they were staying together. The investigation affirmed that the third defendant is one of the extremists posing a threat to public security. An arrest warrant was issued by the public prosecutor's office and a force from the state security investigation department arrested the defendant early yesterday. They found remains of the gunpowder used in preparing the Molotov cocktails, sodium nitrate, and nails in his apartment. The defendant gave a detailed confession.

Police Kill Terrorist in Imbabah; Two Escape

NC0602163793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—A terrorist was killed today during an exchange of fire with security forces in the Kit Kat area of Imbabah. He was found in possession of three incendiary bombs. Two other terrorists managed to escape from the police force. A police force in the Imbabah area ambushed three dangerous terrorists who

took part in recent acts of violence and hurled incendiary bombs at police cars in the area. When the terrorists realized that the police force was after them, terrorist Khalid 'Abd-al-Warith Muhammad, 20, unemployed, fired at the police force, who exchanged fire with him. He was seriously injured and was taken to the hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds. The two other terrorists managed to escape.

Tariq al-Buhayri, Imbabah district attorney, ordered an autopsy on the body of the terrorist to determine the cause of death and also ordered that the confiscated items be sent to the criminal laboratory at the Interior Ministry. The security agencies are continuing their intensive campaigns against the dens of terrorists and extremists in the Imbabah area to detain fleeing remnants to bring them to justice.

Extremists Involved in Recent Attacks Arrested

NC0602194793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Feb 93 p 12

[Report By Murid Subhi]

[Text] Security forces in al-Fayyum have arrested 23 members of the al-Jihad, al-Shawqiyun, and al-Tawaqquf wa al-Tabayyun [Hesitation and Confirmation] groups in al-Fayyum. It was then discovered that some of them were fugitives who had been involved in recent terrorist incidents. Some others were planning to implement a number of sabotage operations by monitoring security installations and following the patrol route of policemen to attack them. The arrest operation took place through surprise security campaigns supervised by Major General Majdi al-Basyuni, the interior minister's assistant for al-Fayyum security. The campaign was led by director of investigations Brigadier General Shawqi al-'Alimi and president of investigations Colonel Hasan Shalqamawi. It included most of the villages and towns of al-Fayyum and involved striking the terrorist dens and arresting fugitives after the recent terrorist acts. Some Cairo and al-Jizah policemen were subjected to. Some 14 extremists from al-Jihad Group in al-Fayyum were arrested. Most prominent among them was Jamal Mu'min Musa, an electrician who frequently held meetings for the rest of the group's members to denounce the government and police forces. Three of his assistants were also arrested: Mahmud 'Atiyah Muhammad, with a vocational training diploma; Faraj Sadiq 'Ali, a teacher; and Rajab Jabir Zayid, a farmer. The three were experts at starting riots against security forces.

In addition, Anwar al-Bajiji and his brother Sha'ban were also arrested. They are accused of attacking and injuring two secret police. These defendants were arrested in the towns of Tamiyah, Sinnuris, and Markaz al-Fayyum. It also became clear later on that among the arrested were three dangerous leaders of the al-Shawqiyun Group. These are: al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhammad, the amir of the Shawqiyun group in the township of al-Salyin, who was arrested earlier and who is wanted because he is dangerous; Yasir Salah Qutb from Kahk, who is wanted for deliberately burning a car

in 1990; and Muhammad Sayyid Sha'ban, who has been sentenced to one month in prison for assault.

The al-Fayyum security men's efforts also resulted in the arrest of three dangerous members of the al-Tawaqquf wa al-Tabayyun grouping. One of the three, the so-called 'Atif Gharib Salim, had recently been active in terrorist activities in Giza. The group entrusted him with the task of monitoring some of the security installations in the region and following the route taken by some security men to continue the series of terrorist incidents against the police officers. They also arrested Muhammad al-Sayyid Muhammad, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hayy Sadiq, and Subhi al-Sayyid Muhammad al-Shafi'i, who are the assistants of the three fugitives Ramadan Mustafa and 'Ali 'Abd-al-Wahhab. The pictures of these last three were published as part of the recent terrorist grouping that killed the guard at the railway station warehouses and attacked the jewelry shops in al-Zaytun and al-Khankah. They were also supposed to plan and prepare for other terrorist activities.

[Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic on 3 February publishes a related report on page 1, which adds: "Security men have managed to uncover a new terrorist group working under al-Shawqiyun Group in Hada'iq Hulwan, southern Cairo. Two group members were arrested while training on the use of pistols on the Nile Corniche street." The report adds: "Preliminary questioning revealed that the two terrorists belong to al-Shawqiyun Group and were training to assassinate senior figures. The house of group leader 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad, which is located in 'Izbat al-Walidah area in Hulwan, was stormed and security men found automatic weapons, knives, and ammunition. They also found some audio cassettes and leaflets calling for the overthrow of the regime."]

Imbabah 'Terrorists' Military Wing Leader Arrested

NC0902122893 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1052 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Officers of the Giza Investigation Department arrested Khuwaylid Muhammad Barakat, commander of the Imbabah terrorists' military wing, out walking in Ramsis Square. Investigations revealed that the terrorist assumed command of the military wing in Imbabah following the arrest of Shaykh Jabir and his brother 'Ali Turk and that he received training on how to make hand grenades and incendiary bombs in Afghanistan in 1989. He took part in the killing of two soldiers in al-Azbakiyah and threw explosive charges at police vehicles and tourist buses.

Security services in Asyut arrested a group of students distributing leaflets in the university campus inciting hatred for the ruling regime.

Libya

Economic, Education Accords Signed With Syria

NC0902101093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Following three days of continuous meetings of the joint committee of the fraternal Syrian Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee in the Great Jamahiriya to study and evaluate the needs of the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriya and Syria and ways to benefit from the two countries' resources in the practical projects and programs that respond to the needs of the people in the two countries and thus strengthen their economic bases and constitute a step toward integration and unity, the minutes of the joint committee meeting and the economic integration agreement between the Great Jamahiriya and fraternal Syria were signed in Tripoli this evening. The brother secretary of the General People's Committee and brother Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi signed the minutes and the agreement in the presence of the brother members of the Syrian Council of Ministers and the brother members of the General People's Committee.

The economic integration agreement provides for laying the basis for economic unity between the Great Jamahiriya and fraternal Syria and integrating economic resources in the two fraternal countries by establishing joint industrial projects and encouraging the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriya and Syria to seek agricultural investment and land ownership in the two countries.

The agreement also provides for developing and encouraging trade between the two countries and removing administrative barriers to the normal flow of local goods and products.

An agreement for investment guarantees between the Great Jamahiriya and fraternal Syria was signed in Tripoli this evening. The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, Trade, and Finance and Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi.

The minutes for cooperation in the fields of health and social insurance between the Great Jamahiriya and Syria were also signed in Tripoli this evening at the conclusion of the meeting of the joint committee of the fraternal Syrian Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee of the Great Jamahiriya. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Insurance and Syrian Health Minister Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti.

The minutes provide for cooperation in standardizing the manufacture and import of drugs and medical equipment and cooperation between the ophthalmology hospital in the Great Jamahiriya and the ophthalmology surgical hospital in Damascus through the exchange of

visits by experts and professors. The minutes also provide for training cooperation between the Higher Institute for Health Technology in Misrata and the Health Institute in Damascus. Agreement was also reached to continue the plan for the Arabization of the curriculum in the School of Pharmacy at the al-Fatih Medical University and the Pharmacy College in Syria.

At the final joint committee meeting held this evening between members of the Council of Ministers in fraternal Syria and the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriya, an agreement for media cooperation was signed. The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information, Culture, and Mass Mobilization in the Jamahiriya and Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman. The agreement calls for promoting the activities of the news agencies in the two fraternal countries by expanding the exchange of news, reports, information, and photographs to cover activities in the two countries, highlight the news carried by the two agencies, and provide the necessary press and technical facilities to correspondents of the two agencies. The agreement also stresses the need to promote cooperation in radio and television by exchanging radio programs covering national and pan-Arab occasions and holidays, encouraging the exchange of cultural and historic programs and videotapes reviewing progress in the two fraternal countries, exchanging all types of programs, cooperating in the field of training and developing media cadres, benefiting from the media training institutions in the two countries, and boosting press cooperation through the exchange of visits of journalists in the two countries. The agreement also involves marketing and distributing newspapers, magazines, and periodicals through cooperation between the relevant institutions in the two countries, and exchanging visits by media delegations to provide orientation and share expertise. A joint follow-up committee will be established to implement the provisions of this program and explore new horizons for cooperation between the Syrian Information Ministry and the General People's Committee for Information, Culture, and Mass Mobilization in the Great Jamahiriya.

Another agreement for scientific and cultural cooperation was signed this evening at the final joint committee meeting held between members of the Council of Ministers in fraternal Syria and the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriya. The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and Syrian Information Minister Salman. The agreement involves establishing cultural centers in both countries to inform the public of the heritage, culture, and history of the Arab peoples in both countries, organizing book fairs involving publishing houses, and effectively participating in international fairs held in both the Great Jamahiriya and fraternal Syria. The executive program for scientific cooperation allows fraternal Syria to lend teachers, trainers, and educational experts in certain specialized fields as well as exchange bulletins, studies, educational periodicals,

books, and text books. It was also agreed to exchange expertise in educational fields and to coordinate stands at Arab and international forums.

The minutes of the agreement also involve exchanging expertise in the field of training and organizing training courses in the fields of technical and vocational training. It was also agreed to work toward standardizing the Arabized technical terms in all fields. The minutes of the agreement include exchanging university scholarships, dispatching university professors for teaching and scientific research purposes, providing mutual access to the existing scientific research institutions, establishing a joint research organization, twinning the two countries' universities, and sharing books, publications, and scientific periodicals. The two sides encourage cooperation between the General Congress of Students in the Great Jamahiriya and the National Union of Students in Syria and promise to provide the necessary facilities for them.

Syrian Delegation Leaves

LD0902143893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers of fraternal Syria, headed by Prime Minister brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, left Tripoli this morning. [passage omitted] The delegation left after participating in the joint session of the Syrian Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee in the Great Jamahiriya, which concluded its proceedings yesterday evening in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister of fraternal Syria, described this session as the most successful one and its outcome as good and positive. In his statement, he said the following: [passage omitted]

We have reached positive and good results on setting up joint projects and deepening and expanding commercial exchange between us. This has been achieved through economic integration. We have also signed a number of agreements to serve our common interests in the fields of health, communications, transport, culture, information media, arts, and other fields. We believe that this session of the joint Syrian-Libyan committee has been the most successful of the sessions held so far. We agreed to follow up the results we have achieved and to continue exchange visits and contacts. [passage omitted]

Syrian Premier Comments on Meetings

JN0902160093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] [Syrian] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has called the just concluded sessions of the Higher Joint Syrian-Libyan Committee the most successful to date. The discussions were held in a most brotherly atmosphere, al-Zu'bi added. Speaking to reporters this morning, he noted that the talks yielded positive and good results, citing joint ventures and an increased

volume of trade. In the area of commercial cooperation, numerous pacts covering health, communications, transport, culture, information, the arts, and other spheres were signed. My brother 'Umar Abu-Zayd Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee, and I have agreed on follow-up action, and there will be official exchange visits, added al-Zu'bi.

The prime minister was appreciative and grateful for the hospitality he and his delegation have received during their stay in Libya. Al-Zu'bi was impressed by the achievements realized in Libya since the 1 September Revolution. Syria, he emphasized, is sympathetic to the Libyan policies calling for a stand against aggressive schemes and unconscionable resolutions passed against it. We may be two peoples, but we are brothers and friends, he declared. There are significant possibilities for a meaningful level of cooperation between Libya and Syria to advance Arab solidarity and causes, observed al-Zu'bi.

Al-Muntasir on Latest Lockerbie Initiative

PM0902115793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi report: "Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Submitted Formula for Solution of Lockerbie Problem to EC"]

[Text] Brussels—Libyan Secretary of the People's Committee for Liaison and International Cooperation 'Umar al-Muntasir, who is currently on a visit to Belgium, has stated that the purpose of his visit is to explain the Lockerbie issue to the EC states and ask them to play a part in solving the problem peacefully, and to persuade the states concerned (the United States, Britain, and France) to allow interrogation of the suspects, as requested by them, in any neutral state to ensure that they get a fair trial.

He emphasized that he had submitted a formula for a solution to Belgium and the EC. He added: "We found the Belgians and the European officials very responsive in the interests of the truth coming out and the interests of a peaceful settlement of the problem."

Al-Muntasir was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in the wake of his meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

Asked if he had made any new proposals regarding that issue, al-Muntasir said: "If justice is the main aim, then we would accept any chosen court outside Britain and the United States, and would persuade the suspects to give themselves up to the judicial authorities of the respective state. Our proposal is, primarily, that they should stand trial in Libya or any other Arab state, but that is unacceptable to the parties concerned. Therefore, we give them the freedom to choose any country that is an ally of the Western parties."

Al-Muntasir stressed that "the Belgian reply to that proposal was positive, and the Belgians promised to intercede with these states and the Security Council for a peaceful solution of the problem."

Asked if there were any signs of relaxation in the crisis with the United States under President Clinton's administration, he replied that "the situation remains as it was before. Libya has accepted Resolution 731 and complied with all its demands with the exception of the venue of the trial, which is what we are working on now. We hope that the Clinton administration will be more realistic and make a peaceful attempt to solve an international problem it can do without, particularly as Clinton is concentrating on the internal economic situation. That would not be possible unless he abandons the new world order idea of his predecessor, George Bush. Furthermore, it has now transpired that the American market has lost massive amounts, in excess of \$4 billion annually, by not dealing with the Libyan market."

The Libyan foreign liaison secretary said that there has been an improvement regarding the crisis with France. He said "our problem with Paris is currently witnessing some positive steps. Meetings have already been held between magistrates from both countries, and we hope that the French magistrate will visit Libya at the end of this month to complete his investigations. I believe that all parties have been responsive in this connection. We want to solve this problem so as to enhance and develop cooperation between the two countries."

Asked if his appointment as foreign liaison secretary indicated some political relaxation and if Europe welcomed him as a negotiator, he said "maybe that is the European side's interpretation. It is free to do so, but the Libyan views will remain the same whether the foreign liaison secretary is 'Umar al-Muntasir or Ibrahim al-Bishari. Our position has been defined, and it has nothing to do with individuals even if their styles are different."

OPEC Head Arrives, Praises Libya's Oil Policy

LD0602222293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Feb (JANA)—Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) president, Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Minerals Alirio Parra, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyyah.

During his visit, the OPEC president will hold talks with the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy, and exchange views on the state of the international oil market, which has seen a serious deterioration in prices over the last few weeks. Also to be discussed will be means to help restore stability to the oil market and improve prices up to \$21 per barrel, the level set by OPEC.

In a statement to JANA, the OPEC president stressed that his visit is being made in the context of cooperation already existing between the Great Jamahiriya and OPEC. He praised the lowering of oil production by the Great Jamahiriya in order to allow prices, which have recently deteriorated, to rise.

'Hypocrisy' of International Legitimacy Viewed

LD0802122693 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Feb (JANA)—AL-ZAHF AL-AKH DAR writes that, as Arabs, we should never be deceived again by so-called "international legitimacy," for, international legitimacy has been lost and it is nowhere to be found. All of what is going on in the world today is nothing but the fulfillment of the will of the strong.

In its editorial today, the paper enquired of the nature of this "legitimacy" which, it said, was content to besiege a whole people [UN embargo against Libya], while deliberately ignoring the Zionist enemy, who is making a daily mockery of all international conventions and agreements.

The editorial continued by saying that when Third World people aspired to see an international body to maintain world security and peace, they dreamed of a happy and equitable world. That was the reason these wretched people had rushed to join such an organization—as a civilized gesture by which they wanted to convey the idea that the language of dialogue, justice, and equality should become common to all, the world having been swamped by the smog of international hatred, which had led to the annihilation of millions of people in total wars motivated by self-interest, conflict of alliances, and vying for invasion and occupation. The hopes and aspirations of these people, however, have ended in an ever-expanding mirage, as they find themselves again unfairly treated by the alliance of the strong against them. The strong countries have falsely and unjustly wielded the United Nations' sword over the weak nations' heads, and they deceitfully called it "international legitimacy." The Arabs, perhaps, are in the forefront of those people who have been the target of this daily insidious as well as open war. When it comes to Arab issues, international legitimacy is nothing but a tool for falsification and deceit, but this same international legitimacy has been weak and fragile vis-a-vis the violations of the Zionist enemy, who is stultifying the UN and the Security Council every day. Suffice it to recall that this enemy has consistently refused to implement a single clause of a total of 51 UN resolutions passed against it to date.

As Arabs, we should never be deceived by this tale of "international legitimacy" again. International legitimacy has been lost and it is nowhere to be found. Whatever is going on in the world today is no more than the fulfillment of the will of the strong of this century, who are still carrying the UN banner to offer bread to lure and deceive people who are still living the dream of respecting international legitimacy.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKH DAR concluded by wondering about the nature of international legitimacy, which has accepted the besieging of a whole people [the Libyans] while deliberately ignoring the Zionist enemy, who has made daily mockery of all international conventions and agreements. Its ridicule of this legitimacy has even led it to reject its latest resolution to allow 400 Palestinians, expelled from their homeland, to return. The Zionist enemy's foreign minister has even said that: If we thought of taking back 100 of the deportees, we would only do that as a gesture of respect toward America and not the UN or the Security Council. This is indeed a sure sign of hypocrisy.

Islamic Countries' Commitment to Muslims Questioned

LD0602221593 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Douglas Hurd, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs yesterday officially received Salman Rushdie. This was in appreciation of Rushdie because he wrote that the Prophet Muhammad was found drunk in Hind's bed, and that the house of the Prophet Muhammad was considered to be a pre-Islamic era brothel. Salman Rushdie also accused the Prophet Muhammad of being obsessed with women. All this was contained in Rushdie's book, *The Satanic Verses*.

Commenting on this, JANA's Islamic affairs editor asked:

Where are those who claim that they are the protectors of Islam? Where is the Islamic Conference Organization? Why did they not protest? Even more, why did they not boycott Britain, because its government receives at the highest level such a person as the one who insults Islam and Muslims and their Prophet Muhammad.

The editor said: The Islamic countries have lost all the pretexts under which they were claiming to defend Islam. The past U.S. president said that the Koran is merely a collection of old Arab proverbs. They were all informed about that, but they did nothing; they did not even protest.

The editor concluded his comment by saying: From now on, who is going to believe the alleged commitment of these people to Islam and Muslims?

Kuwait**Increased Role of UN Force on Border Welcomed***LD0902104693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 Feb 93*

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Feb (KUNA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin has stressed that the role of the UN international force now present on the Kuwait-Iraq border has now become more effective as a result of increasing its size and extending its remit beyond mere observation to the use of force if necessary.

In an interview with AL-QABAS published here today, al-Shahin made clear that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, in his report on increasing the Kuwaiti border observation force, had emphasized the idea of preventive diplomacy by taking preemptive rather than reactive measures and by extending the role of the force to include the use of force and monitoring Iraqi infiltration activity.

Regarding the recent UN Security Council resolution on the use of force, he said: "It was different from other resolutions dealing with other issues because the presence of UN forces at the border was based on a Security Council decision and not as a result of Kuwaiti or Iraqi request. The Security Council has the last word on whether to keep the force or withdraw it." Regarding the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq border, al-Shahin said: "An international committee of experts last Sunday began a survey from the air of the demilitarized zone across the border region, taking aerial photographs of installations on both sides of the border." He pointed out that "the sea borders demarcation committee will meet between 16 and 19 March to finalize the findings of the sea border demarcation which include Khawr 'Abdallah and Khawr al-Zubayr."

He expressed the hope that the committee will finalize the border demarcation so that the National Assembly can ratify it and so that our borders will could be finalized and approved by the United Nations, which is the guarantor of these borders.

Al-Shahin added: "The Security Council is following up all decisions being taken with relation to Kuwait and Iraq every six months so that it can give its view on what it sees fit to keep this region secure and free of the conflicts and disputes being prompted by Iraq."

Regarding the Iraqi blockade and the maneuvers being made by Iraq to have it lifted, the Foreign Ministry under secretary pointed out that the UN Security Council is meeting every two months to monitor the blockade and Iraq's compliance with it. He asserted that "the blockade was not meant to starve the Iraqi people, but it was a message from the UN to force Iraq to implement the demands of UN resolutions which it [Iraq] had accepted in full."

He added that it was Iraq which was refusing all attempts to extend aid to it and to its people. The Security Council has unfrozen Iraq's assets abroad so that they can be used to pay for essential requirements such as food and medicine. Iraq has also been allowed to sell up to \$1.6 billion worth of its oil for the same purpose, but Iraq continues, through its media, to blame the effects of the blockade on the world community."

Defense Minister on Border Security, Agreements*NC0802100293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Feb 93*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 8 Feb (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim has declared that the Kuwaiti Army now has full control over 100 percent of Kuwaiti territory. He affirmed that the Kuwaiti forces are fully prepared to check any Iraqi offensive or encroachment, noting that the Iraqi forces stand no chance of bringing even regular troops to the Kuwaiti border.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti defense minister maintained that Kuwaiti officials are making strenuous efforts to safeguard the security and safety of Kuwait and to protect Kuwaiti airspace against any treacherous act by the Iraqi regime, which currently is in the throes of death.

Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim pointed out that the U.S. Patriot missile batteries, which arrived in Kuwait last month, will remain in Kuwait to defend its airspace, but he did not indicate how long these batteries will remain.

The defense minister said that there are some 20,000 Kuwaiti reservists who already have completed their training and are ready for call-up at any time. This is in addition to the other regular Army forces, he added. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the recent UN Security Council resolution to send troops to the border areas between Iraq and Kuwait, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that Iraq, with its present leadership, has challenged the United Nations persistently by attacking UN observers and threatening them with using force. This prompted the United Nations to take positive measures to deter such Iraqi acts. It decided to replace the observer troops with peacekeepers to prevent Iraq from carrying out similar acts in the future, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said.

To a question about the Arabian Peninsula Shield forces in Kuwait and whether there is any intention to increase them, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that the present forces are symbolic. He added, however, that the actual size of these forces could be increased at any time. He said that the Gulf Cooperation Council member-states participate in these forces according to their capabilities, noting that these forces are under Kuwaiti command.

To another question about the security agreements Kuwait will embark on concluding with Russia and

China, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that China has refused to conclude any security agreements with Kuwait because the Chinese Constitution bans the conclusion of security agreements between China and any foreign state, noting that China has never signed any agreement in this regard. He said that China has voiced its sympathy with Kuwait and is ready to sign any agreement that aims to preserve political peace and even military peace in the Gulf region. He affirmed that Kuwait appreciates China's stand.

The Kuwaiti defense minister added that talks are under way with Russia to conclude a security agreement that would guarantee security and stability in the region.

Zimbabwe President Arrives in Country for Visit

LD0802110593 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpts] At 1000 hours, His Excellency Robert Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and his accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait international airport on a 2-day official visit to the country.

Those at the airport to greet him were headed by his highness, the amir of the country, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, and the speaker of the National Assembly. [passage omitted]

The distinguished guest is accompanied by a delegation including Nathan Shamuyarira, the foreign affairs minister; Masaya, the minister of state for finance; and a number of senior officials in the government of Zimbabwe. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD0902114193 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Excerpt] At 1000 this morning His Excellency President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe visited his highness the amir of Kuwait at Bayan Palace, where they held official talks. Minister of Amir's Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad said the talks focused on developments in bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD0902103893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0838 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Feb (KUNA)—Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, foreign minister for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived here this morning on a short visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Vietnam

JN0802112693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Doha, 8 Feb (WAKH)—The Governments of the State of Qatar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of today with the aim of reinforcing friendship and cooperation.

The two sides expressed, in a joint communique issued here today, their confidence that establishing these diplomatic relations will develop cooperation and reinforce world peace. The two sides stressed their readiness to build bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of peaceful coexistence, equity, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of both countries, and noninterference in the other side's internal affairs.

Saudi Arabia

Minister Denies Meeting Israeli Official

JN0802181393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1711 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Abdallah al-Shihri dispatch from Riyadh]

[Text] Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl once again has denied reports that he met in Switzerland with the president of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce, or with any other Israeli official at any level. In a statement to our radio, the Saudi minister said that all the reports on this subject are completely groundless and that the meeting never took place.

The Saudi minister earlier denied a report by Israeli radio last week that Minister Aba-al-Khayl had met with the president of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce by affirming that all that was reported by Radio Israel in this respect was entirely fabricated and absolutely groundless. The Saudi minister affirmed that he never met with any Israeli official, and therefore made no statement to either an Israeli radio correspondent, or to any other correspondent.

Paper Optimistic on Outcome of Christopher Visit

LD0702113093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 7 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 7 Feb (SPA)—[passage omitted] The daily AL-MADINAH has expressed optimism at the likely results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's expected visit to the Middle East. The paper gives various reasons for this optimism, including the enthusiasm the new U.S. Administration has shown for the Middle East issue. Among the other reasons, the paper

goes on to say, is the personality of Secretary of State Christopher, who worked as deputy secretary of state for four years during President Carter's administration. The paper stresses that he is by any standards an expert on the Middle East question.

AL-MADINAH asserts that the timing of the visit will basically have negative consequences for Israel and its negotiators because it comes amid world support for the Arab parties and a total rejection of Israel's deportation of the Palestinians. This will create new rings of political and psychological encirclement of Israel, frustrating many of its calculations that are aimed at prolonging the period of negotiations to the maximum possible limit.

U.S. Stance on 'Unjust' Plan for Bosnia Praised

LD0702142893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 7 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Feb (SPA)—The daily UKAZ notes the U.S. stance vis-a-vis the Geneva peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina and describes it as worthy of attention by the Arab and Islamic quarters. It stresses that President Clinton's administration is facing European pressures to secure its support for this plan. The paper makes it clear that the U.S. stance is not totally identical with the Islamic demands for solving the Bosnian problem, but it is the most positive stance of the major international powers toward the issue of Bosnia, particularly in comparison with the European stance. Because of the importance of the U.S. stance as a barrier to the implementation of the unfair schemes of the Geneva conference, UKAZ says, the Arab and Islamic group should coordinate its efforts with the United Nations, back the positive points or elements in the U.S. stance, endeavor to deepen them, and support this stance in facing up to the European pressures in the effort to "market" the unjust Geneva plan in Bosnia.

Paper Views Secretary of State's Upcoming Visit

LD0602134993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 6 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 6 Feb (SPA)—On the awaited visit of the U.S. secretary of state to the area, the daily UKAZ says that this visit, which is scheduled for 17 February, evokes a number of fundamental observations. First, the visit reflects the new U.S. Administration's interest in peace in the Middle East and its commitment to the continuation of the peace process and to the encouragement of efforts toward its completion. Second, the Arab parties, which have repeatedly announced their commitment to a comprehensive, durable, and just peace, have found themselves the only parties committed to peace. Israel, meanwhile, is creating obstacles and difficulties whenever it feels that peace might curtail its aggressive

and expansionist objectives. Third, the visit is taking place in the difficult circumstances surrounding the peace process as a result of Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians in a way that is incompatible with the simplest principles of humanity and international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Call From Egypt's Mubarak

LD0602231993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2250 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh/Cairo, 6 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a telephone call this evening from his brother, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The call falls within the context of the constant contacts between the two Arab leaders with respect to issues of interest to the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Committee Gives \$2.2 Million to Palestinian Cause

LD0802214293 Rabat MAP in English 1407 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 8 (MAP)—The Saudi Popular Committee for the Support of Palestinians Sunday said it deposited 2.2 million dollars in the account of the Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine (OLP) as part of its regular aid.

The aid, the committee said, is made of voluntary contributions as well as deductions from salaries of Palestinians residing in Saudi Arabia.

The committee's chairman Abderrahim Jammous said since its creation in July 1992, his organisation extended to the PLO 9.91 million dollars.

Yemen

Japanese Expert 'Escaped,' Not Freed by Tribe

NC0802221093 Paris AFP in English 2041 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Feb 8 (AFP)—A Japanese irrigation expert escaped from his Yemeni kidnappers and had not been freed as reported earlier, a Yemeni agronomist who fled with him said Monday.

Samir al-Khulani said he and Koichiro Katsurai of the Japan International Cooperation Agency escaped the Yemeni tribe that had held them for four days in the Harib Nihm region, 70 kilometers (40 miles) east of Sanaa.

Yemeni sources said the two had been released Saturday by their kidnappers who had wanted to pressure the government to include their region in an irrigation project the two were working on. [passage omitted]

Improved Relations With Arabs Reportedly Sought

JN0902092293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Sources have confirmed that mediation efforts are underway based on a desire by the Iraqi leadership to improve its relations with Arab countries, particularly Egypt, with the aim of achieving an Arab reunion and confronting current challenges.

The sources noted that the mediation effort is based on closing the file of the Gulf crisis and its repercussions and beginning a new chapter of relations by providing officials of both countries the opportunity to meet to find possible ways to restore Egyptian-Iraqi relations.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told President Mubarak that Iraq proposes holding these meetings in both Cairo and Baghdad, beginning with an urgent meeting in Cairo between the foreign ministers of both countries during which the two sides would arrive at a sound understanding of future bilateral relations. Following this meeting, a joint political committee would be formed to continue discussions and consultations on normalizing relations.

Iraq also proposes that this be followed by a resumption of the meetings of the higher joint Egyptian-Iraqi committee, which is responsible for assessing bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Iraq also hopes for the return of the Arab Cooperation Council in the event that these efforts succeed. These steps would be crowned by an Arab summit to discuss means to achieve Arab security during the next stage.

Abu-'Ammar said that the new Iraqi stand proceeds from Iraq's appreciation of the Egyptian stand on safeguarding the unity of Iraq and Egypt's rejection of the recent U.S./Western strike against Iraq.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday emphasized the need for Iraq to restore its role within the Arab world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Saddam on Anniversary

JN0902103293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a congratulatory cable from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi on the 30th anniversary of the blessed 8 February revolution. The cable reads: On the anniversary of the 14 Ramadan revolution, it pleases me to send to you, in my own name and on behalf of the people of the Great Socialist

People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, my sincerest congratulations and best wishes of continued good health and happiness for you and progress and prosperity for the Iraqi people.

Shiite Radio Reports Attack on Regime Forces

JN0502191393 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] In defense of the freedom and safety of our Muslim mujahidin people, the brave mujahidin of the Islamic revolution continue to pursue the lackeys of the mad agent, Saddam, and his murderous, treacherous henchmen. Within this context, on 30 January our mujahidin dealt a successful blow to a Saddamist terrorist roadblock on the main road connecting al-'Amarah Governorate with the [placename indistinct].

During this operation of jihad, our heroes killed a great number of Saddamist mercenaries and injured others. A mercenary was captured and the others fled. Our mujahidin destroyed a tank and an armored personnel carrier belonging to the Saddamist gang of looters and burned four tents and two ammunition dumps in addition to [words indistinct], rocket launcher, and an [?L-5] radio equipment. The Islamic revolution's heroes returned safely to base, God be praised.

More Cluster Bombs, Missiles, Grenades Defused

JN0902113993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—The competent authorities at the Civil Defense Directorate in the al-Qadisiyah Governorate, 180 km southwest of Baghdad, have defused three cluster bombs dropped on the village of [name indistinct] by the aircraft of the 30-state aggression.

The governorate's civil defense director told INA that the competent authorities also defused six projectile missiles and 35 hand grenades in the al-Shafi'iyah sub-district of this governorate.

Restaurant Explosion in Irbil Kills 3, Wounds 13

NC0602162093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] At 1030 this morning, an explosion took place in a restaurant in Irbil. Three citizens were martyred and 13 others were wounded in the blast. Security authorities in Irbil say agents of the Iraqi regime are behind this terrorist act.

Opposition 'Unhappy' With Coalition's Air Raids

NC0502181193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] An Iraqi opposition official has stressed that the Iraqi opposition was unhappy with the coalition's recent air raids against our country. He said he wished the

coalition troops had bombarded tyrant Saddam Husayn's palaces and the places he frequents.

Nuri al-Amin, member of the political committee of the Islamic Action Organization, stated in a press interview published today that by making the coalition troops bombard Iraq, tyrant Saddam Husayn was trying to improve his image and promote his dubious slogans. Al-Amin proposed two alternatives to the coalition countries to unseat the ostracized tyrant. One calls for declaring the tyrant a world criminal on charges of terrorism and genocide against the Iraqi people. He noted that the arguments needed for such incrimination are contained in the Security Council resolutions. The second alternative, he said, involves cooperating with the Iraqi opposition and providing more world and regional backing to enable it to carry out its national duty.

Al-Amin emphasized that the opposition is capable of contesting elections that could be held in Iraq under UN supervision even if the tyrant were still present.

Writer Criticizes Arab Reaction to 13 Jan Strike

JN0702105693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has said that the mere official Arab regret of the renewed aggression on 13 January is unacceptable and condemned.

In an article published in AL-JUMHURIYAH today, Mazin 'Abd-al-'Aziz added that some circles which expressed this regret are aware of the dimensions of the recent 30-state aggression on Iraq. These circles also played a malicious role in preparing for the aggression and are also aware of the content of the unjust UN resolutions passed against Iraq. He voiced surprise at these stands and at the expressions of regret despite the passage of 28 months on the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people at a time when some Europeans denounced the renewed aggression on Iraq by Bush and his followers as well as the targeting of purely civilian areas. This happened, he added, when the Arabs were satisfied to merely express their regret.

The writer said that the few days preceding Bill Clinton's assumption of power as president showed the extent of Bush's disregard of the bases of international law. They also affirmed that what happened was not absent from the minds of those who expressed regret and made diffident statements.

Striking Iraq Said Attempt To Control Oil Fields

JN0902111793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has asserted that the oil monopolies together with the secret deal merchants were responsible for bringing criminal Bush to power four years ago.

In an analysis published here today, the paper says the aggression against Iraq was the major step to gain control of the Arabian Gulf oil fields. This is an old U.S. plan for which the Rapid Deployment Force was created in order to protect Israel, the guardian of the imperialist interests.

The paper adds: One of the objectives of this U.S. plan is to fragment the Arab countries by making them strike one another in order to control all or at least some of them as a first step. AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that Saudi Arabia vowed to render this plan a success, so it opened its doors and air bases to the forces of aggression in order to strike at Iraq, realize the U.S. dream, safeguard the Zionist interests, and beat the drums of war in order to return the al-Sabah family to its throne.

The paper points out that the United States also stirred up troubles on the other side of the Red Sea in order to gain a foothold and pounce on the Arab homeland's African flank. The United States, the paper adds, has colonized and invaded Somalia after receiving the go ahead for the invasion from the United Nations by threats and blackmail. The paper asserts that Bush's crimes in implementing that plan have exceeded all limits. These crimes have resulted in many hardships for the American people, including heavy taxes, terrifying crimes, polluted environment, widespread drug abuse, and a poor international reputation. The American people avenged themselves by expelling Bush from the White house, the paper concludes.

Israeli Reporter's Visit to North Iraq Criticized

JN0702094393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the Zionist entity is no longer the sole agent implementing the imperialist and colonialist schemes in the region.

In an article today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, discusses that openness between the Zionist entity and the rulers and tools revolving in the U.S. orbit.

The paper adds: We are not surprised, therefore, to hear that a Zionist newspaper correspondent has toured northern Iraq and reviewed with Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani the aid the Zionist entity can extend to them. We are not surprised if the al-Sabah executioners kill, imprison, or expel tens of thousands of Palestinians at a time when scores of Zionist experts with Israeli identification cards are freely roaming Kuwait and are being paid the highest of salaries.

The paper stresses that any attempt to contact, deal, or open channels with the Zionist enemy is a departure from the sound path—a departure which, regardless of any circumstances, can only be classified as treason and disgraceful siding with the Zionist enemy, which is persistently continuing its occupation of Arab territories.

Jordanian Prime Minister's Remarks on Embargo Noted

JN0802123793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has affirmed that Jordan has, from the very beginning, objected to the imposition of the unjust blockade on the Iraqi people, and continues to demand that this blockade be lifted.

Addressing the Jordanian House of Representatives, Bin-Shakir added that Jordan continues to do all it can and on all fronts to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq. He said that Jordan spares no effort to back Iraq and its people in all fields to bolster its steadfastness and serve its progress. He indicated that the Jordanian Government will intensify efforts on Arab and international levels to launch initiatives which would bring an end to the injustice that fraternal Iraq is exposed to.

Leadership Said Seeking Peace, Rejecting War

JN0602090393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that the Revolution Command in Iraq seeks to adopt a policy of construction, development, and peace, and that it does not believe in war, destruction, and intimidation.

Commenting on a statement by the foreign minister of the regime imposed on Kuwait in Tehran on 4 February, the paper, in an article today under the headline "Iraq, a Threat to Whom?" says that the alleged Iraqi threat has not been created by the revolution command in Iraq. This is because in both its thought and struggle, this command seeks to adopt a policy of construction, development, and peace.

The paper adds that the revolution command adopts a national and pan-Arab course and insists on implementing it. This course is represented by firmly confronting whoever harms our national and pan-Arab interests and all agent and suspect forces that aim to harm Iraq.

The paper continues: The confrontation that Saddam Husayn has successfully led during the Mother of Battles makes those people express fear from Iraq. In this regard, the paper indicates to the Arab masses' growing support for Iraq and its genuine pan-Arab course and sincere nationalist leadership.

The paper adds that this stand by the Arab masses provides a strong support for Iraq's position.

Repair Work on al-Rashid Hotel Almost Finished

JN0902094793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—The reconstruction mujahidin have completed 90 percent of the repair work on the al-Rashid Hotel, which was hit during a U.S. missile attack on 17 January.

In a press statement published here today, a source in the enterprise responsible for the reconstruction said that the work is proceeding in accordance with technical and engineering specifications. He added that the work had been divided into two parts—firstly, work on the hotel's facade, and secondly, on the 14 floors of the hotel which sustained damage. The source added that the Taj al-Ma'arik [Crown of Battles] Company manufactured the glass substitutes, which were successfully tested by the National Center for Construction Laboratories and confirmed to be airtight.

UN Informed of More U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

JN0902084593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0803 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] New York, 9 Feb (INA)—Iraq has once again denounced the violation of its airspace by the U.S. espionage plane U-2, bearing the mark UNT-1. It reaffirmed its constant stand that this plane is used for purposes unrelated to those specified by the Security Council and that its activity infringes on Iraq's sovereignty and security. This came in a letter sent by the foreign minister to the UN secretary general, delivered by Iraq's permanent UN representative.

The letter contained details of four violations of Iraq's airspace by this plane from 25 January to 6 February, during which it violated the Iraqi airspace after taking off from an air base in Saudi Arabia. The plane overflowed wide areas of Iraq on the pretext of conducting an air survey for the Special Commission. The letter said that these four violations raised to 112 the number of this plane's violations of Iraqi airspace.

Reported to Arab League

JN0802112993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1027 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League of the continued violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S., British, and French planes taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, thus posing a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamt 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said that the U.S., British, and French planes continued on Thursday and Friday, 4 and 5 February, to violate the Iraqi airspace. He said that the planes carried out 98 aggressive air sorties.

Iraq's delegate asked that the letter, which details those violations, be distributed among the League member states.

Rabin Holds Talks With U.S. Senator Leahy

TA0802162493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Following his meeting with Senator Patrick Leahy this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel is entitled to receive the full U.S. aid for the 1994 fiscal year. Rabin also criticized the PLO for its intransigent position on the peace process. Our correspondent Tziyon Nanus reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Nanus] The prime minister emphasized that the discussions with the Americans dealt with aid for the 1994 fiscal year. Prime Minister Rabin explained Jerusalem's position to Senator Leahy in no uncertain terms:

[Rabin] Our position is that Israel is more than entitled to receive the full aid for the 1994 U.S. fiscal year. Our unequivocal position is that keeping the aid at its present level would help us solve our economic and social problems, and this would definitely benefit Israel's security and the prospects of peace.

[Nanus] Rabin refused to broach the details of his talks with the Americans, only saying that the media reports on these talks were inaccurate.

In today's Labor Knesset faction meeting Rabin said he foresees a possible escalation of Hizballah attacks along the northern border in anticipation of 17 February, the anniversary of Hizballah leader 'Abbas al-Musawi's death.

Turning to the political arena, Rabin sharply criticized the PLO. This is what he had to say regarding the PLO's role in the deportees affair:

[Rabin] The PLO has played the most negative role within the Arab arena, both in its demand for and pressure to bring about a debate in the Security Council for imposing sanctions on Israel, and in being more firmly opposed to the resumption of the peace negotiations than all the other partners to the peace negotiations.

[Nanus] Rabin said that the attitude of the Arab countries to the negotiations is much more convenient for Israel. He added, however, that there are moderate elements within the PLO-Tunis, but he noted regretfully that these elements wield no influence. Rabin added that in anticipation of the resumption of the talks in April we, like the Arab countries, will have to do some soul searching. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 8 February carries additional information regarding Rabin's remarks to the Labor Knesset faction: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin assesses that the peace talks will resume in mid-April. He said that there are good signs regarding Syria, but Israel has no one to talk to among the Palestinians, and if there is a group, they are emitting negative signals."]

Comments on U.S. Aid

TA0902055693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he is now less worried over the prospect that U.S. aid will be cut to Israel. The prime minister was speaking in the Knesset after meeting with visiting U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Aid Subcommittee. David Ze'ev reports.

Speaking in Hebrew, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told reporters Israel has a right—more than a right—to full U.S. aid. Israel's position is plain and simple, the prime minister went on: To provide the assistance is to help Israel's security and to help the peace process. He termed reports that a cut was in the offing far from reality. Behind the closed doors of a Labor caucus meeting in the Knesset, the prime minister said, according to a Labor spokesman: Today I am less worried over a possible cut.

Rabin insisted that Israel has not been asked to make any more compromises in the deportation affair. He said that in his phone conversation last Thursday with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the two sides agreed that the objective was to put off a UN Security Council debate on the deportation question. The prime minister told the Labor Knesset members that the United States is making a strong effort to get the message across that the deportation problem has been resolved. Rabin said that when Christopher sets out for the Middle East on the evening of February 17th, his sole objective will be to renew the peace process.

The premier accused the Palestinian negotiators of strengthening the extremist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] with their pessimism. The talks with the Palestinians are a complete mess, in the prime minister's words, while there are better initial signs from the Syrians, he said. Concerning both resolving the deportation issue and getting the peace talks back on track, Rabin said the PLO is the most extreme element disrupting the process.

Finance Minister Discusses U.S. Aid, Commitment

TA0802164293 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Studio interview with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat by Rafi Reshef on 8 February; from the "Erev Hadash" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reshef] Good evening, sir.

[Shohat] A very good evening.

[Reshef] Are you now absolutely positive, Mr. Shohat, that the United States does not intend to slash aid to Israel?

[Shohat] I can tell you that the issue never came up in my conversation with Senator Leahy, as I was happy to note. The prime minister and I have decided to do all we can to ensure that both the economic and the military aid are not reduced. My talk with the senator addressed numerous issues related to the Israeli economy: the state budget, reforms we are planning, privatization, loan guarantees, the absorption of immigrants. He never even mentioned aid cuts in the one-hour meeting.

[Reshef] We should point out that the issue at stake is the 1994 aid.

[Shohat] Yes. Our aid for the 1993 fiscal year, which in Israel is the calendar year from 1 January to 31 December, is guaranteed. The U.S. fiscal year begins on 1 October 1993. The current year is anchored in U.S. legislation. We are talking about the 1994 fiscal year.

[Reshef] Senator Leahy's telling the media that he has come to check what Israel is doing with the guarantee funds was odd because we have not done anything yet.

[Shohat] That is true, but he wanted to know...[changes thought] I believe we will raise the first installment, the first \$1,000,000,000, at the end of March. The process is at an advanced stage. The second half will be raised around September. He wanted to know what we intend to do, how we will use the money, and the extent to which it is essential. He asked me what would happen if we realized suddenly that we do not need the entire \$10,000,000,000 we are supposed to receive within five years. I told him that if we find we do not need the money, that will mean our situation is bad. We assume that if we want the economy to grow at a stable pace, if we want to create jobs and to encourage investment, we will need more than \$10,000,000,000. If we do not use the \$10,000,000,000, it means we have a problem.

[Reshef] This is a new administration declaring new priorities. How can they possibly not slash their aid to Israel, which constitutes a significant portion—\$3,000,000,000 out of \$14,500,000,000—of the U.S. foreign aid?

[Shohat] I assume they cannot forsake a certain commitment to Israel, which stems from several factors. Today we are repaying defense loans at the rate of about \$1,100,000,000 a year. It is true that when we speak of defense, we mean our defense, but we should remember that the United States used to view us as a strategic body, and our function in the Middle East used to be very germane to U.S. policy. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Peace, U.S. Aid

TA0802190393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Ganor on 8 February; place not given; Peres and Ganor speak in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, the political process has been paralyzed for two months now, initially because of the U.S. elections and now because of the deportations. What plans are there to get the frozen political process moving?

[Peres] The U.S. elections did not depend on us. As for the deportations, the new U.S. Administration has suggested a compromise and Israel has accepted. It is now up to the administration to take action with the Arab side to secure Arab acceptance of the compromise.

[Ganor] Is the Israeli-U.S. understanding on the deportees issue absolute? Or will more concessions be required of Israel?

[Peres] As far as I know, we have not been asked to make further concessions.

[Ganor] But in light of the stand taken by the deportees themselves and by Arab countries, the Israeli-U.S. understanding is apparently unacceptable to them.

[Peres] I think the United States must be given sufficient time to apply its policy.

[Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, what is Israel's stand on the U.S. plan to slash foreign aid?

[Peres] There is an objective slasher—inflation. Since there is inflation in the United States as well—two to three percent a year—our aid has lost about 30 percent of its value since 1985. The aid has been slashed by 30 percent, and there are many signs that inflation will not abate. Israel's economic situation has not improved. We must pay for our defense. Peace has a price, as has the boycott—not to mention other unusual expenditures, such as the absorption of immigrants.

[Ganor] You will be the first senior Israeli figure to meet with the new administration. What expectations of the Clinton administration do you have?

[Peres] My main emphasis will be on the multilateral track, because I think it is there that we will lay the cornerstones of a new Middle East. There is always a difference between immediate and distant objectives, but the distant objectives are the greater, the more valid, and the more significant ones. I am absolutely convinced that if we fail to build a new Middle East, hunger and wars will devastate the Arab countries and weigh heavily on us.

Rabin Plans Change in Peace Proposals, Delegation

TA0902064093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin intends to revise Israel's proposals regarding the bilateral peace talks prior to their resumption in Washington. He also will review the structure of the talks and the composition of the

Israeli delegation to the negotiations. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Gutman] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is not disappointed by the fact that the bilateral talks have been postponed until April. In his opinion, the talks are not going anywhere and there is room for a comprehensive revision of Israel's positions in the peace talks in order to infuse them with renewed momentum. The prime minister intends to conduct this revision after his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in mid-March.

Political sources in Jerusalem said the revision will include all of Israel's proposals in the bilateral talks and its tactics in the negotiations, as well as the composition of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations. Although the prime minister does not believe the Madrid formula is ideal, he does not plan to change the framework.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due in Israel in about 10 days. Jerusalem believes that Christopher will seek only to hear the positions of the sides and will not make any new proposals. Jerusalem expects to see a breakthrough only in the meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and U.S. President Clinton.

Rabinovich Presents Credentials, Comments on Talks

TA0902063693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's new ambassador to the United States, presented a copy of his credentials to U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Clifton Wharton last night. After their meeting, our Washington correspondent Arye Golan spoke with Ambassador Rabinovich about the date emerging for the resumption of the peace talks.

[Begin recording] [Rabinovich] Technically, I think the talks could resume after Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East. Another problem, of which we have been aware for a long time, even before the current crisis, is that the Ramadan holiday begins at the end of February. The Arab parties will have to decide whether they want to start talking before and through Ramadan; we cannot make their choices or determine their values. Therefore, we might find ourselves in a situation where we do not get started before the end of March or the beginning of April. This is not such a tragedy, but when it comes to delicate talks such as the Arab-Israeli negotiations, an interval from the end of December to the beginning of April is very long, and we would prefer to start earlier.

The positive side of this situation is that the secretary of state will visit the region and will confer not only with the Israeli leadership but also with Arab leaders. As far as Syria is concerned, I cannot really see it budging before such a meeting, so no breakthrough will be made in any event before the meeting with al-Asad in the second half of February and before its outcome has been digested.

Moreover, first the foreign minister and later the prime minister are due in Washington, and these also are important factors. In essence, it does not make much of a difference. I believe it is important that the process be resumed, mainly from the psychological point of view and in terms of the message to the people of the Middle East, so that they do not forget that there is a peace process under way and that we are not just busy with stones or more dangerous materials.

[Golan] Sir, do you believe that, after all the visits you mentioned, this process can resume without solving the problem of the deportees and with their remaining on that hilltop in Lebanon?

[Rabinovich] I think so. I believe that one of the basic mistakes of the international community, which dwelt on the issue of the deportees in the first few weeks until the U.S. Administration began dealing with it, was leaving the answers to many of the questions in the hands of the deportees. Israel made one gesture or another, and it was the deportees or those who stand behind them who judged whether they were sufficient. We are talking about a group whose essence and mission is to sabotage the talks, and they obviously have a constant motivation to say that the gestures are insufficient and that the talks cannot resume.

One of the achievements contained in the Israeli-U.S. understanding is that it shifted the focus from that hilltop to Washington, to the Israeli-U.S. understanding itself, and to the dialogue currently being conducted by the U.S. Administration with the negotiating partners in such a way that the right to say yes or no has been restored to those participating and interested in the process and has been taken away from those seeking to sabotage it.

[Golan] Do you think the Arab countries will leave the deportees there and will come here, to the State Department, to talk with Israel?

[Rabinovich] I do not think the Arab countries need our advice on how to deal with the public and political aspect of the situation. I believe that if the Arabs reach a consensus on returning to the talks, those formulating it will find ways to lower the profile of the problem. We saw and heard the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo, and the clear purpose of their meeting was to say that the peace process must continue and must not be impaired. We saw that, when necessary, they know the answers and the shortcuts in Arab politics better than we do.

[Golan] In your conversation with Deputy Secretary of State Clifton Wharton, did you get the impression that the United States may be expecting additional Israeli gestures toward the deportees in order to strike this issue off the agenda once and for all?

[Rabinovich] No, there was no hint or even the trace of a suggestion to that effect in our conversation.

[Golan] Good luck, Amb. Rabinovich.

[Rabinovich] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Palestinians Want PLO Inclusion To Resume Talks

TA0702123793 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Feb pp 1, 4

[Report by Pe'erli Shahr and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The Palestinians have raised several demands for resuming the negotiations with Israel, which would not involve the return of all the deportees. A media blackout has been imposed on the proposals currently being reviewed in Jerusalem.

One of the proposals, raised mainly by the PLO in Tunis, would provide for the inclusion of the PLO in the bilateral negotiations as part of the Palestinian delegation in exchange for foregoing the demand to allow the return of the deportees. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich Comments on Peace Talks With Syria

TA0502180293 Tel Aviv HADASHOT (HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 5 Feb 93 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the Israeli delegation to peace talks with the Syrians, by Amnon Barzilay; place and date not given]

[Barzilay] One of the prime minister's reasons for the deportation was the desire to advance the peace process. According to the recent news headlines, the deportation did not exactly promote the process.

[Rabinovich] It should be remembered that we stopped the talks on the day of the deportation, 17 December. We did not set a date for January because the administration was changing then. We did not set a date for February because it was too far away. I believe that had we set a date in January-February, we would have found a solution for the deportee crisis sooner.

[Barzilay] May I assume, judging from this reply, that the decision to carry out the deportations was not coordinated with the heads of the peace talks delegations?

[Rabinovich] We received reports; we were in the picture after the decision was made.

[Barzilay] In hindsight, should you have been consulted?

[Rabinovich] Considering the reasons and the need for fast execution, without external interference, I can understand why there was a tendency not to consult the teams sitting so far from here.

[Barzilay] What stage of talks could we have been in today, if it was not for the deportation?

[Rabinovich] In essence we did not miss much because I find it hard to believe that the Arabs, mainly the Syrians, would have made progress before the new U.S. Administration assumed office.

[Barzilay] When do you believe the talks will resume?

[Rabinovich] There could be a brief round of talks to sustain momentum even before Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the region.

[Barzilay] There is an assessment that the crisis has not been resolved yet. What would happen if the deportees refuse to return?

[Rabinovich] So far, the deportees and their allies have determined what is good and sufficient. One of the main achievements of the U.S.-Israeli package deal is that the definition of what is satisfactory—in terms of solving the deportee affair—has moved from the deportees' court to the U.S.-Israeli court.

[Barzilay] How much was Syria involved in the establishment of the deportees' encampment?

[Rabinovich] I do not believe Syria was behind this. The decision by Lebanese Prime Minister al-Hariri not to allow the deportees to enter deeper into Lebanese territory or disperse was made in a bid to win a reputation for himself and his government.

[Barzilay] But if the Syrians really wanted, they could break up the camp.

[Rabinovich] Yes, but at a heavy price. The Syrian game is complex. They have their connections with Iran. They do not want to be perceived as weak and compromising. Despite their desire to renew the talks, the Syrians saw the advantage of having the deportees' encampment harm Israel's maneuverability and international status. Also, there is the fact that Hafiz al-Asad wants to make the United States clearly see Syria's central role in settling problems, and its value as a partner.

[Barzilay] Nevertheless, they have notified the Arab world that the issue of the deportees will not prevent them from returning to the peace talks.

[Rabinovich] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' really took an interesting stand: Yes to the bilateral talks, no to the multilateral talks, because the latter will provide Israel with the fruits of peace, while the former are due to collect the price of peace from Israel. Ironically enough, the Syrians do not participate in the multilateral talks anyway.

[Barzilay] Before the deportation, you spoke of a breakthrough in the talks with Syria. Does this assessment still hold?

[Rabinovich] I said there could be a breakthrough; saying that one will take place would be a prophecy.

[Barzilay] Excuse me, but you even set a date, April-May.

[Rabinovich] Yes. The visit here by Warren Christopher, and the visits by Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres to the United States are not expected to be completed until

the end of March; therefore no substantial progress could be expected before April. This is still true today.

[Barzilay] So there could still be a breakthrough in April-May?

[Rabinovich] Yes, the delay does not have to last more than two to three weeks, and it will not change the big picture.

[Barzilay] How come you are so optimistic?

[Rabinovich] It is interesting to note that recently the Syrian leadership has made several optimistic remarks.

[Barzilay] Such as?

[Rabinovich] Al-Asad for the first time said that we are reaching a crossroads from which we could reach a dead end, but also an open road that could lead to peace in the full meaning of the word.

[Barzilay] Could you please remind us of the reason progress has been delayed so far?

[Rabinovich] The inability to make progress had two reasons: disagreements regarding the nature of peace, and an unclear situation in Washington. Now that the new administration is in, the unclear situation is gone.

[Barzilay] What can Clinton give al-Asad that Bush did not?

[Rabinovich] The Bush administration was finished. In October, al-Asad realized that Bush and Baker, with whom he had reached understandings toward the peace conference, are about to disappear, and that now he has to deal with the meaning of the Clinton victory.

[Barzilay] What understandings did al-Asad reach with the Bush administration?

[Rabinovich] Al-Asad understood that he could get the entire Golan Heights, or that the United States will support the formula of territories for peace, which means all the land for some kind of peace.

[Barzilay] Who could vouch that the Clinton administration will not follow suit?

[Rabinovich] This is exactly one of the most important tasks of the Israeli Administration—to understand the new U.S. starting points.

[Barzilay] But in general, the idea of land for peace is acceptable to Israel?

[Rabinovich] It is not acceptable as long as the Syrians have not defined peace. There is an asymmetry between land and peace.

[Barzilay] In other words, if the Syrians were clear in their definition of peace, we would be clear in our definition of the territory we would be willing to hand over?

[Rabinovich] Yes, if they are clear on the issue of peace.

[Barzilay] Does this mean that if Syria agrees to a full peace, Israel would be willing to give up the entire Golan Heights?

[Rabinovich] You cannot jump to this conclusion. Primarily, we are not dealing with speculations on the future. We have not heard the Syrian side yet. Also, after we hear the Syrians make an unequivocal declaration in this spirit, Israel's Government will decide what it is willing to give in return. There is no room to make early assumptions in the spirit of what you said.

[Barzilay] At the same time, they are waiting for us to define the scope of withdrawal.

[Rabinovich] This is true. Our stand is that the Syrians have to come up with a definition first, and that in any event, peace is the core of these negotiations. After all, this is called a peace process not a withdrawal process.

[Barzilay] So here we are stuck.

[Rabinovich] Yes, but the issue is so essentially important that sometimes we should test our endurance. I am not scared by the fact that we are making no progress, because we are at the most important stage.

[Barzilay] Alternatively, is a second interim arrangement with the Syrians possible?

[Rabinovich] If the Syrians stick to a narrow definition of peace, the conclusion will be that the peace process will have to last a long time, and the practical meaning of that is an interim arrangement.

[Barzilay] Meaning that Israel would renounce its sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and the Syrians would declare a state of nonbelligerency?

[Rabinovich] I see no room for concrete speculations.

[Barzilay] There are rumors that these issues are being discussed with the Syrians in secret channels.

[Rabinovich] This is simply not true; there are no secret channels.

[Barzilay] The Golan settlers say they have different information.

[Rabinovich] They may believe what they want.

[Barzilay] Why did you meet them at the beginning of the week?

[Rabinovich] I wish to draw a distinction between meeting settlers' representatives, listening to them, and arguing with them. I believe that, because we are negotiating with Syria, which demands the Golan, we want to hear the settlers, and they have a right to be heard.

[Barzilay] Why, then, did you reject their invitation to meet them on the Golan?

[Rabinovich] I did not want to tour the Golan Heights.

[Barzilay] Why?

[Rabinovich] Hearing the settlers out is one thing; holding a tour is another. I do not believe that what is taking place in the talks with the Syrians justifies a tour of the Golan Heights.

[Barzilay] The Golan Heights is under Israel's sovereignty. What difference could your visit have made?

[Rabinovich] Perhaps it would not, and perhaps I am too sensitive. I felt that a meeting in Tel Aviv was good enough.

[Barzilay] Are you not bothered by the implied message of this refusal?

[Rabinovich] No, why?

[Barzilay] It implies that government officials should not be touring areas that are to be returned soon.

[Rabinovich] This was definitely not the message.

[Barzilay] Last week, LIBERATION published that al-Asad is dying. What do you know about this?

[Rabinovich] My examinations indicate this was a false alarm.

[Barzilay] Should Israel consider the fact that Syria has an authoritarian regime?

[Rabinovich] Yes.

[Barzilay] Should this make us shiver slightly?

[Rabinovich] No. I would not like to go into details, but Israel has to take this into consideration.

[Barzilay] Do you mean guarantees of some kind?

[Rabinovich] I will not go into details.

[Barzilay] Was this raised in the talks?

[Rabinovich] With the Syrians? No.

[Barzilay] And with the Americans?

[Rabinovich] We discussed this among ourselves.

[Barzilay] What is the conclusion?

[Rabinovich] I will not go into operational conclusions.

Rabin Says Arabs 'Not Serious' About Peace

TA0802094693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Feb 93
pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev, On Levi, Mikhal Sela', and Drora Perl]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday said that the fact that the Arabs were presenting the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists as an obstacle to the resumption of the negotiations proved that they "were not serious" about the peace process.

Rabin was speaking to foreign correspondents in Jerusalem after recording an interview for ABC television. Rabin's statements reflected the frustration felt in Jerusalem and Washington over the fact that for all intents and purposes, the Arabs had rejected the compromise agreement reached between Israel and the United States on the deportee affair, and refused to consider it satisfactory cause to resume the talks.

There is concern among officials in Jerusalem that the United States may demand that Israel make additional gestures toward the Palestinians, although it was stressed yesterday that contrary to reports, Israel had not been asked to take further steps regarding the deportees, nor was such an appeal expected, in light of the fact that Israel and the United States had agreed that the compromise agreement on the deportees was final and would not be changed. [passage omitted]

Aloni Vows To Never Again Support Deportations

TA0802062293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The council of the Citizens Rights Movement [faction of Meretz] met last night but postponed its discussion on the deportees. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says many party members wanted the party leaders to demand the return of all the deportees, but Ministers Shulamit Aloni and Yosi Sarid opposed them.

Speaking to members of the Foreign Press Association yesterday, Education Minister Aloni said, however, that she would never again support the deportation of Palestinians. Aloni said she thinks the government shares her view on the measure. Le'a Zinder reports.

[Begin recording] [Zinder] Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni told the foreign press she would never again agree to deportations, and she believed her view was shared by the government. Nevertheless, Aloni was questioned repeatedly by the foreign press corps on the reasons for her support of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportations. How, she was asked, did a life-long champion of civil rights and an opponent of deportations, justify her support for the government decision? Aloni said she did it because she really believed the very future of the government depended on that decision.

[Aloni] This was a very crucial thing, a very crucial thing. The feeling that if we want this government to survive and if we want this government to implement the idea of promoting peace and bringing it, especially with the Palestinians and not only with the Syrians, we have to

show that we can stand against this kind of brutal terrorism and fundamentalism.

[Zinder] And as for what one reporter called Aloni's deliberate attempts to provoke SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and other religious parties with her anti-religious remarks, Aloni said she had been quoted out of context and had been the victim of political manipulation.

[Aloni] I never wanted to provoke, but I think that freedom of speech—and I want freedom of speech in this country—and patience—and living in a democracy means that everyone has the right to say the things he believes in. Because I was saying the things I believe in for so many years, I became now a minister. I did not provoke; I have my ideas. I do not want to, and it is none of my business to be involved with rituals, but I do want that all the Jewish people in this country, religious and non-religious, secular and atheists, will know their basic roots.

[Zinder] Shulamit Aloni also said she said she believes that the prime minister is making a mistake by repeatedly giving in to the demands of SHAS, instead of putting them in their place. [end recording]

U.S.-Israeli Deal Believed Bringing PLO Back

TA0502182093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Feb 93 p 15

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "The Bill Is Yet To Be Paid"]

[Excerpts] According to Yitzhaq Rabin's method of operation, his greatest success might emerge from the failure of the deal he has struck with the United States: The deportees remain intransigent, and the 100 deportees will not return. At the same time, the United States will stand by Israel's side and will remain committed to veto any resolution "of operational meaning" against it. It can be claimed that Rabin has had his cake and eaten it too. [passage omitted]

The deportation was meant to restore the public's confidence in Yitzhaq Rabin's leadership, but after he made the agreement with the United States, the public is all the more confused. The deportation was meant to strengthen the moderate Palestinians, but the agreement further fortified Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], making the distress of the moderate even worse. The agreement was supposed to strengthen Israel's ties with the new U.S. Administration—and it seems that it did, in the short run. In the long run it might still yield the opposite result: Get the United States closer to the Arab countries and mainly to the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The Arabs reacted angrily and the Europeans kept their chilly distance. This provided the Clinton administration with its first lesson in complex international reality. Although they continued praising Rabin and the agreement with him, U.S. officials were unable to hide their surprise when the world did not lose its senses with enthusiasm. U.S. UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright sounded almost insulted when she told Gad Ya'aqobi

last weekend that the Arabs would simply not cooperate. The Americans were no less surprised by the French, who, as is their habit, tried to make some political capital from the U.S.-Israeli closeness, and insisted that the Security Council condemn Israel after all. It seems that the deportee affair made the United States suddenly awakened from its innocence.

As far as Israel is concerned, so far, the deal with the Americans appears to be the best possible fruit of a bad situation. This is not the case regarding the Americans: They made a bad deal, period. The Americans provided Israel with an insurance policy, without first verifying the facts regarding two essential components of the deal: the elimination of the deportee affair and the resumption of the peace process. They thus reexposed themselves to the traditional charge by Yitzhaq Shamir, only this time the Arabs are making it: The United States is no longer "an honest broker" between them and Israel.

The main U.S. mistake, and perhaps also ours, is that it did not bring in the Arabs, mainly the Palestinians, while forging the package deal with Israel. About a month ago, when Shim'on Peres tried to fabricate the "deal of thirds" (one-third of the deportees is returned, one-third goes to France, and one-third goes to Algiers) he at least tried to obtain the Palestinian reaction to the offered deal. Rabin, who rejected Peres' idea, was not interested, and apparently neither were the Americans.

Last week, the Americans took pride in the tripartite U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli cooperation. Contrary to his predecessor, Rabin regards Egyptian President Mubarak as a potential ally in the promotion of the peace process (despite the fact that Mubarak, just like the UN secretary general, is an Egyptian). The Egyptians were supposed to "deliver" the Palestinians, but it seems that so far they have failed. Now that the U.S.-Israeli deal has been struck, Egypt assumes an opposite role: "To deliver" the Americans. It may do better in this mission than in the first; Rabin will not like this success, and it would shed an entirely different light on the whole deal.

The peace process—the main political goal of both the United States and Israel—is not rescued yet. According to the agreement it signed with us, the United States may not address us with additional demands to put the peace talks back on track. Therefore, it has but one line to work on: paying the Arabs.

In the Arab world, Egypt has its own triangle, with Syria on the one hand and the PLO on the other. The Syrians have quite a few concerns regarding the new U.S. Administration, and the agreement on the deportees only added to their fears. The Syrians can disperse the deportees all over the place; they hold the key to the peace process, and they have their own demands of the Americans, including striking their name off the list of terror-supporting countries. The Americans have been counting on the repeated Syrian signals that they want to go back to the negotiating table. But, thanks to Egypt, President al-Asad—the best Middle East negotiator—

has managed to make the Syrian political goal of continuing the talks look like a concession to the Americans, for which they will be paid handsomely.

The Palestinians are suffering from the bad image they acquired during the year of negotiations since the Madrid conference. After starting as the "heart of the Middle East conflict," they have now become the neighborhood drag who does not know where he is headed or why. In the coming days they will be engaged in a challenge that would be difficult even for seasoned and tough politicians: They wish to prevent the Arabs from returning to the negotiating table without them; they have to return to the table themselves, without appearing to surrender to the Americans; and they have to regain the political leadership Hamas has assumed.

The Palestinians, just like the Syrians, have their own demands of the Americans regarding the essence of negotiations with Israel. They are not satisfied with the generosity of Israel's offers for an interim arrangement, and want more solid assurances regarding the permanent arrangement. There is doubt whether the Americans will accept the demands. But the Palestinians have another demand which is more precious than their demands on the negotiations themselves, which does not present the United States with the dilemma of blunt intervention in the talks: The resumption of the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Rabin lashed out at Ya'el Dayan for drawing the logical conclusion from the lifting of the ban on meetings with PLO members, and taking off to Tunis. Dayan told the Knesset last week that she was no official government emissary. Rabin, when he still opposed the cancellation of the law, maintained that this might pave the way for the renewal of the dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO. Troubling signs were received on Rabin's end that Clinton's men are indeed considering this, and Israel and its supporters rushed to strangle this idea.

Still, it may become apparent very soon that lifting the ban and Dayan's trip were secondary: It will be the deal Rabin himself has struck with the United States which will motivate Washington to return the PLO to the front of the political stage.

Protest Lodged Over 'Anti-Semitic' PLO Letter

TA0902054193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500
GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Israel has protested to the United Nations over an anti-Semitic letter submitted by the PLO representative to UN agencies in Geneva. The letter, from PLO representative Nabil al-Ramlawi, links Jewish observance with shedding of blood of Palestinians. The letter was submitted four months ago, close to the Yom Kippur holiday, to the UN under secretary for human rights. Al-Ramlawi wrote that Jews cannot be happy even on a festival if Palestinian blood is not shed.

Israel's UN ambassador, Gad Ya'aqobi, said this was an unbridled attack on the Jewish religion and it was reminiscent of the blood libels of the Middle Ages.

Fatah Hawks Issue Statement on Gains Against IDF

TA0802154893 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
8 Feb 93 p 6

[Report by Sulayman al-Shafa'i]

[Text] The Fatah Hawks—the military arm of Fatah—has issued a statement summing up its military operations against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in January 1993. The statement says: "We have hit five patrols, killed five military, and wounded dozens of soldiers."

The statement asserts that the squad decided to renew its armed struggle against IDF troops stationed in the Gaza Strip as of the beginning of this year. "On 3 January, squad members using a hand grenade and Kalashnikov and Carl Gustav assault rifles, attacked an IDF patrol moving on al-Bakhar Street in Khan Yunus. Four days later, they ambushed and attacked an IDF patrol at the Jabalyah refugee camp. While retreating, they ran into an IDF foot patrol, opened fire, and escaped after killing one soldier and wounding several others.

"On 9 January, the Fatah Hawks again operated in Khan Yunus. They ambushed and attacked an IDF patrol, killing a soldier. On 16 January, they used Kalashnikov and Carl Gustav automatic weapons, wounding several soldiers. On 22 January, the Hawks sat in ambush in southern Rafah. A passing IDF patrol was attacked and caught fire. On 23 January, Fatah operatives ambushed an IDF patrol driving on al-Nasir Street in Gaza. In the automatic gunfire, one patrol member was killed and others were injured."

The statement asserts that "the IDF has not admitted" any of the attacks, "and in two of the cases, Qol Yisra'el announced that the soldiers were killed in a traffic accident."

Police Defuse Bomb Found in Tel Aviv Restaurant

TA0802143493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400
GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] A terrorist attack was foiled in Tel Aviv this afternoon. A booby trapped instant coffee jar was found in a deli shop on Ben-Yehuda Street. When a customer wanted to buy two coffee jars, a salesman noticed that one jar was heavier than the other. Upon removing the lid, the shop's owner noticed batteries and wires. Correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that a policeman who happened to be in the shop removed the jar from the shop and alerted police bomb disposal experts. After examining the bomb, it transpired that it was about to explode. The police sealed off Ben-Yehuda and Dizengoff Streets for more than an hour, but now the streets have reopened.

Two Arabs Killed in Stoning Incident 8 Feb*TA0802160693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Feb 93*

[Text] Two residents of the Janin District village of Tammun were killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers following an operation in which a fugitive from the village was apprehended this afternoon.

The fugitive, 27-year-old Muhammad Bani 'Udda, was captured. He is suspected of perpetrating attacks on Jews and Arabs.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that as the soldiers were leaving the village, they came under a barrage of stones. When the stone throwers did not heed the orders to stop, the soldiers opened fire, killing two.

Two Arab Youths Shot by Army in Territories 7 Feb*TA0802145293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 93 p A3*

[Report by Eytan Rabin and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A 15-year-old Arab youth was killed in a clash with troops at the Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem yesterday afternoon. The clash erupted after tires were burned at the refugee camp entrance, a barricade was placed on the road, and locals hurled stones at a Border Police unit.

Soldiers and border policemen fired rubber bullets and warning shots in the air. A short while later, the police was notified that the body of a youth shot in the neck had been brought to al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 8 February adds: "During a clash in the Samarian village of Tubas last night, Yusuf Tajanah, aged 17, was killed by Army fire. Military sources said an Army patrol opened fire after two youths holding what appeared to be a suspicious object, refused orders to stop. One of the youths later died of his wounds, and the other was shot in the leg. The Army is investigating the incident.

["In East Jerusalem, a passenger in a car was injured last night when the vehicle was pelted with stones. He was hit in the eye by glass splinters and taken to Hadassah Hospital.

["In Bayt Jala, two firebombs were thrown at an Egged bus, but caused no injuries or damage. The Army imposed a curfew on the area."]

Palestinian sources reported that eight locals were injured in the Gaza Strip and five in the West Bank yesterday. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] detained three Gaza Strip Palestinian journalists who freelance for REUTERS. The IDF claimed they had entered a closed military zone. The three—reporter Tahir Shuraytah and cameramen Marwan al-Ghul and Ashraf al-Ghul—were brought to Gaza Police for interrogation. [passage omitted]

In recent weeks, the IDF added infantry units to its troops in the territories. Military sources said the IDF sometimes beefs up its deployment in accordance with situation assessments.

Chinese Delegation To Sign Cooperation Accord*TA0702204493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Feb 93*

[Text] Science and Technology Minister Shim'on Shetrit and China's Vice Minister of the State Science and Technology Commission Li Xiaoshi, who is visiting Israel, will sign an agreement on scientific cooperation, mainly involving joint projects on agricultural research, and civilian applications of space technology. The Chinese deputy minister arrived in Israel this afternoon at the head of a delegation of seven scientists. The Chinese will visit universities and institutes of agricultural research and technology.

Satellite Test Launch Scheduled for End of 1993*TA0502115493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 93 p A6*

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] A test launch of Ofeq, the Israeli spy satellite, is scheduled for the end of this year. The launch will test the satellite's sensor and communications systems, which are in the final development stages.

At present, the Defense Ministry's annual investment in the satellite project stands at about \$20 million. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, decided against slashing the satellite budget. Defense sources estimate that the development will require an additional sum of \$120 million before completion. The Ofeq satellite was developed by Israel and, according to foreign sources, the development was made jointly with South Africa. A total of about \$1 billion has been invested in the project to date. [passage omitted]

Delegation To Tour Russia, CIS Republics

King on Visit's Importance

JN0602173093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] His majesty the king today called for maintaining strong ties with Russia and the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union. His majesty was addressing members of a Jordanian delegation which will visit the Russian Federation and the independent Islamic republics at a Royal Court audience.

His majesty said he appreciated these countries' willingness to improve ties with Jordan, stressing solid cooperation with the Islamic states, including the exchange of expertise in all fields.

During the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Chief of the Royal Court Khalid al-Karaki, and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn-Zayd, his majesty pledged to offer Jordanian expertise to Arab and Muslim states.

The Jordanian delegation, led by Prince Ra'd and comprising politicians, economists, religious figures, and academics, will leave on Monday [8 February] for Russia and the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union.

Departure Reported

JN0802080093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] A Jordanian delegation led by His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, the chief chamberlain, today left Amman for the Russian Federation and the independent Islamic republics. The delegation carries royal messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the leaders of these states dealing with bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, and the Jordanian viewpoint on international issues.

Paper Praises Initiative

JN0802135393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Feb 93 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Importance of the Jordanian Initiative Toward the Islamic Republics"]

[Text] The delegation, which will begin a visit to the Islamic republics and the Russian Federation today, is an expression of Jordan's great desire to establish the best possible relations, form the deepest ties of friendship, and maintain links with our brothers in these republics, which comprise more than 50 million Muslims, on the basis of amity, friendship, trust, the exchange of expertise, and cooperation in all possible fields.

His majesty the king's directives to our delegation, which consists of various functionaries, reflected the extent of King Husayn's care that the Arabs present the best image of fraternal cooperation to their brothers in Islamic Asia,

an Asia which constitutes a great reserve and asset for both this nation and its causes in the near and distant future.

This is so because these brothers—to whom we are bound by the ties of our noble creed—now desperately need practical, tangible forms of fruitful, constructive cooperation instead of speeches and directives, especially as they lived for more than 70 years behind an iron curtain and would have lost their identity had it not been for the Islamic conscience that remained alive in their hearts.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Islamic states in Asia, along with the millions of their peoples who are striving to regain their ties with the Arab and Islamic world, have become an arena for ideological competition and gains by some neighboring states, while the Arab states have remained almost totally absent from this arena.

This Jordanian initiative, therefore, comes to fill part of the vacuum and shoulder some of the responsibility placed on the Arabs, who were the first to carry and advocate the message of Islam. At the same time, this initiative is a living example that can be followed by all Arab brethren who are calling for effective move and fruitful cooperation with millions of Asian Muslims in the interest of this large nation.

While greeting the delegation of official functionaries, which will begin a visit to the Asian Islamic republics and the Russian Federation today, and also while praising those behind the idea, particularly His Majesty King Husayn, we are confident that during this tour our delegation will reflect the image of Jordan, which is well known for its achievements, maturity, perseverance, and dedication to the Arab and Islamic nations.

Magazine Interviews King on Peace, U.S. Ties

JN0902102593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Hisham Mulhim dispatch from Washington]

[Text] In an interview with the Washington-based magazine MIDDLE EAST INSIGHT, Jordan's King Husayn Bin-Talal has expressed dissatisfaction that after more than a year since they began, the Arab-Israeli peace talks have not achieved much. He expressed astonishment at the media treatment of the joint agenda which resulted from the talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track and which was submitted to the two governments even before the Jordanian Government's agreement on it, as he said. The Jordanian monarch, however, did not deal with the contents of this document.

King Husayn stressed the need to find a solution quickly, which, he said, would not come through external pressures, but through the pressure of facts on the ground. He said: These facts will push us to move quickly in the future to achieve results so that we may tell those from both sides who are casting doubts and lurking in the dark

that they are mistaken. He said that if peace is not achieved in the near future, tension will escalate because of the competition over the scarce water sources in the region in the next five years. This, he added, would create a real crisis, not only in industry and agriculture, but also in meeting people's needs.

King Husayn said he expects equal progress to be made on the various tracks, whether in the bilateral or multi-lateral talks.

King Husayn also referred to Jordanian-American, Jordanian-Arab, and Jordanian-Gulf relations.

He said: Jordanian-American relations have greatly improved. However, they are not as they were in the past. There is still a long way to go before reaching that stage.

With regard to Jordan's relations with the Arabian Gulf states, King Husayn said: I believe that with the exception of Kuwait, there have been promising beginnings. He said he hoped an Arab summit would convene in the near future.

Asked if he considers Iran a threat to the Arab world, King Husayn said: The dangers threatening the Arab world come from within the Arab world itself, that is, the weakness which encourages external parties to exploit the situation. He added: Therefore, the answer should come from the Arab world itself. He said: I do not want to concentrate on Iran in particular and say that it poses a threat. Iran is a regional state which has its own objectives. However, Arab weakness caused by divisions and the failure to meet people's expectations and demands make the Arab people vulnerable to external pressure.

Speaking about the future of Iraq, King Husayn implicitly criticized Iraqi President Saddam Husayn when he said that he hopes Iraq will live to enjoy its right to stability and territorial integrity so that its people can achieve national reconciliation, democracy, and pluralism. He added that Iraq is a very important element in the Arab fold.

Spokesman for Peace Talks Delegation Interviewed

PM0802143793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 93 p 6

[Report on interview with Dr. Marwan Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, by Salamah Ni'mat in Amman; date not given]

[Text] The official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks has warned that political opposition to the peace process will increase with the passage of time unless tangible progress is achieved.

Dr. Marwan Mu'ashshir told AL-HAYAH that the time factor "is not in the interests of delaying the negotiations without achieving progress in a reasonable period of time." [sentence as published]

Mu'ashshir, who is also director of the Jordanian Information Office in Washington and member of the negotiating delegation, added that the negotiations experiment which began over 15 months ago "has proved that matters will not budge without U.S. intervention to narrow the gap between the parties concerned."

And he warned that the Jordanian-Palestinian scene "will not wait indefinitely while opposition grows as a result of Israeli intransigence and the decline of the U.S. role."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH Mu'ashshir pointed out that the continuation of the current situation, which he described as "abnormal" will lead to "a strengthening of the opposition led by the Islamic movement on the one hand and the Israeli Likud on the other."

As regards the effect that political opposition in Jordan to the peace process is having on the government's position and hence the negotiating delegation's position, Mu'ashshir said that "it is not possible to talk about the peace process as though it is an academic exercise remote from influential factors in the region." In this context "it is difficult to talk about peace negotiations based on Security Council resolutions while Israel refuses to respond to other resolutions concerning the Palestinian deportees."

The official spokesman asserted that Washington "will not be able to ignore the effect of the Israeli position on the future of the peace process. And although it is difficult to judge at this early stage the policy of the new U.S. Administration under Bill Clinton vis-a-vis the Middle East, early indications have not been reassuring."

He pointed out that while observers rule out a radical change in Washington's foreign policy, which is primarily based on its strategic interests in the region, some of the recent appointments in the U.S. Administration arouse the concern of many observers on the Arab side."

Mu'ashshir believes that the appointment of Martin Indyke (former member of the Israeli lobby "AIPAC") as assistant to the national security adviser and Samuel Lewis (a former U.S. ambassador to Israel) as director of the U.S. Policy Planning Staff "is not assuring, because these two figures are linked with organizations known for their loyalty to Israel."

He pointed out that "this is the first time figures that are ideologically committed to a policy that is biased toward Israel have been appointed to such important political posts."

The official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation says that the U.S. position on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 will have a great impact in "determining the features of the U.S. role in the peace process and whether the U.S. Administration is serious about implementing the Security Council resolutions, not only with regard to Iraq, but also with regard to the peace process it is directly sponsoring as well."

He stressed that the peace process "is organically linked to the Security Council," because it is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Thus "it is very difficult for Washington to ignore the resolution concerning the deportees' return in such a blatant manner."

However, Mu'ashshir ruled out that the new U.S. Administration would abandon the principles and foundations on the basis of which the Madrid conference was convened with the participation of all the parties concerned. He pointed out that the conference was convened after a series of protracted negotiations led by former Secretary of State James Baker in the region with all the parties. Any change in the principles and foundations "would move the negotiations backward and create a state of imbalance." And although the door "remains open to some endeavors to interpret the principles and foundations, it is difficult to conduct a radical revision of them."

On the clamor provoked by the announcement that Jordan had reached an agreement with Israel on the agenda for the bilateral negotiations, Mu'ashshir said that the official denial of the agreement "does not constitute backtracking at all." What happened is that "a draft which had not been finally or officially agreed was leaked."

He added that when the draft was leaked the two delegations were in the process of discussing its clauses before referring it to the two governments to seek their opinion. He emphasized that the Israeli delegation "has not yet replied to the proposals submitted by the Jordanian delegation in the recent draft." He stressed that, even if the agenda is agreed, it will not mean an agreement on the clauses contained in it, which should be negotiated as disputed clauses."

Mu'ashshir noted a change in the Israeli negotiating strategy away from trying to cause infiltrations on one track with one Arab side to the exclusion of another, toward trying to achieve progress on all tracks in parallel.

He pointed out that "the tracks should not be seen as though they were competing with one another, because progress on one track will necessarily help progress on the other tracks, not the opposite, especially with the existence of a reasonable degree of coordination among the Arab parties, as all the Arab parties decided not to sign separate peace agreements with Israel."

Replying to the Israeli accusations that Jordan is deliberately delaying progress on its track with Israel, pending the achievement of progress on the Palestinian track, Mu'ashshir said that the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and demographic, political, economic, and geographical relations necessitate that positions be coordinated as much as possible. He added that "this interlinkage should be taken into account, although this does not mean that the Jordanian track is waiting for the Palestinian track."

Mu'ashshir expressed his regret for the Israelis' "failure to have a clear view" of their concept of the framework

for a peaceful solution. He pointed out that Israeli negotiators "prefer to go into the minor details to try to establish a framework for a solution based on these details, whereas the Arab side prefers to define general frameworks for a solution before going into the details."

Decision To Send Christopher to Area 'Reassuring'

JN0702091293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7
Feb 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Tour Could Bear Fruit"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to dispatch Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East this month suggests that the Arab-Israeli conflict is indeed receiving a high-priority considerations by Washington. Christopher's trip to Israel and some Arab countries in the region beginning Feb 17, being his first foreign mission, is obviously necessitated by the threat posed to the already fragile peace process through Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians in December. It goes without saying that without using Washington's good offices, the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties would grind to a halt over the expulsions.

To be sure, it is not only due to Israel's illegal act against the alleged Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists that the entire peace process has been put on the line. It is also the snail's pace of the talks themselves and Israel's stubborn refusal to deal with the legitimate leadership of the Palestinians and its core demands that is playing havoc with the future of the negotiations. Furthermore, the cycle of violence in the occupied territories is at a new and dangerous pitch, and this alone could prevent the negotiators from going back to the table or register any progress if they do.

Clinton appears to be pressing hard to defuse the new conflict over the expulsions, but he did not do enough to broker and endorse the so-called compromise offer by Israel. There are reasons to believe that the phased return of the expellees, as offered by Israel, will not stop at the first hundred Palestinians but will further pick up momentum later. No doubt the decision to delay the resumption of the bilateral and multilateral peace talks has this point in mind. But between now and mid-April, when the peace talks could start again, many things could happen on the expellee front as well as on other fronts, thus making the climate for the next round of peace talks more promising. As a matter of fact, the intermittent interruption of the negotiations could be put to useful purpose since this would offer the two sides ample time to reflect more on the future and weigh the options available to them.

This is why perhaps Clinton's decision to send his secretary of state to the area has a reassuring tone besides that of making it felt that the new administration is at least as keen as the previous administration to promote peace in the Middle East. Who knows, but the U.S. president and his

team may still have pleasant surprises for the parties involved by applying full weight to the process till it comes to fruition. If it is accepted that the previous Democratic administration of Jimmy Carter was the one that made peace possible between Israel and Egypt, it can likewise be possible that the new Democratic administration of Bill Clinton may still be the one who will finish the job of extending peace to the whole area.

Clinton Urged Not To Repeat Bush 'Mistakes'

JN0802111493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Feb 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Clinton's Administration and Caution Not To Repeat Bush's Mistakes"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East this month will not save the U.S. Administration's reputation nor regain its prestige as a sponsor of the peace process unless Washington embarks on a courageous step to pressure Israel into repatriating the Palestinian deportees.

In view of the embarrassment caused by the deportees' issue to the international community and the shocking scandal it brought to Israel, President Clinton's administration will not be able to talk about international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions, on the basis of which the peace negotiations were held between the Arab parties and Israel, at a time when this administration is appeasing Tel Aviv and striking a suspicious deal with it to dilute the deportees' issue and circumvent Security Council Resolution 799 that stipulates the immediate return of all deportees.

The UN Security Council resolution on the deportees is crystal-clear. It does not need any interpretations or personal judgments, nor does it call for a phased repatriation of the deportees. The new U.S. Administration, while still at the beginning of its term, should take care not to repeat the grave mistakes made by the administration of former President Bush. The Bush administration deliberately used flagrant double standards to handle international issues. It also used double standards with regard to the Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. It used an unjust standard in dealing with the resolutions pertaining to the Arab nation, particularly Iraq, Palestine, and Libya, and another biased standard in dealing with other resolutions, particularly those pertaining to Israel. In order to implement this condemned policy, the Bush administration committed abominable crimes and follies, the most important of which was the 30-state aggression and the unjust blockade against fraternal Iraq.

There is no doubt that President Clinton's administration realizes that Israel is daily flagrantly violating Palestinian human rights and launching a war of annihilation against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, the most prominent manifestation of which was the martyrdom and injury of scores of Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip in the past three days. Israel is also showing disdain for

international legitimacy, represented by Security Council Resolution 799 that stipulates the repatriation of the deportees—as well as other resolutions. Moreover, Israel shows no respect for the international community and insists on the deportation decision. Despite this, Israel's practices are met with silence, procrastination, and indifference by the western states, led by the United States—states that shed false tears over human rights and democracy. Washington is even doing its best to shift the deportees' issue away from the UN Security Council and to postpone its awaited session in a bid to undermine this issue and save Israel from possible, even if only formal, international sanctions. Washington is also trying to bring about partial solutions that serve the Israeli deportation decision.

The U.S. Administration can no longer deceive the Arab nation. It should realize that the Arab parties cannot go once again to the negotiating table at a time when they see the deportees camping in severe isolated conditions—an isolation that has branded the international community with a historic shameful stigma that will not be forgotten.

King Addresses Northern Bedouin Youth Delegation

JN0802195493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Speech by King Husayn during a meeting with a delegation representing cultural and scientific youth groups from the northern bedouin areas, at the Royal Hashemite Court on 8 February—recorded]

[Text] Brothers, beloved ones, my kinfolk: This meeting, on this good day, on the road we have chosen, is a meeting of the kinsfolk, a meeting of youths. I will always recall that this meeting constitutes a promising new station on our march, God willing. As for this place, I am proud to say that it is the house of everyone of you. This one big family, which is living under these circumstances, is also living on the hopes of the fathers and grandfathers and the genuine Arabs in the greater homeland, who are in our hearts, minds, and consciences. Be sure that I will be pleased when I see you together as one hand and one heart. I always welcome any opportunity to meet in order to discuss our situation and affairs, review past efforts, and plan for further objective action. The secret of success or failure, God forbid, providing that it is God who grants success, is man with his awareness, sincerity, honesty, and his accurate assessment of circumstances and the position he occupies in this march and during this time, including his rights and duties and awareness of his importance and that of his devotion, as well as the effects of all of this on the situation at present and in the future. We beseech God Almighty that this homeland, in this location and under these circumstances, will be an exemplary homeland. We also beseech God Almighty that our heads will not bow to anyone but Him, and that we will live while in our hearts and the consciences of everyone of my brothers and all members of this family our faith in our nation

and in our greater homeland, and that in this darkness, we should hold the torch and light the road for the future aspired for the coming generations.

The youths should contribute to the democratic march to entrench its roots and to lead it in the future. This is your responsibility one generation after another. You have a great role to play under all circumstances. Our youths are the main element in the development process and in building the new exemplary Jordan. We must comprehend the new changes in this age, and deal with them with maturity and comprehensiveness. We should proceed from the principle of higher national interests and place them above all any other interests and considerations. Jordan's pan-Arab role and its adherence to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt must be the main pillar of our thinking and future aspirations, as well as moderation, the pursuit of balanced policy, departure from extremism, and accepting another opinion. Our road must always be, God willing, lit with awareness, sincerity, and honesty, and before and after all with content, which is the result of the readiness of everyone of us, and of his desire to discuss all minor and major issues with his brothers and people. If he is convinced, then he, as well as all of us, will proceed with God's care, on the right path.

Brothers, we are passing a test and experiencing difficult circumstances. Praise be to God, our fate is always to encounter many challenges. However, I believe that this

is the stage which will have a great impact on the future of generations all over the greater homeland. What are the objectives and goals? They are that everyone of you, every member of this family should have his place, to play his role, and perform his duty in this march, until the day comes when we all feel that we have achieved something through cooperation among all of us and through performing our duty toward finding a way out of this darkness to a new dawn. All that we do and say is based on solid ground, on firm bases, and on the principles and objectives which we inherited from our fathers and grandfathers. Proceed with God's care. I will always recall today's meeting and consider it, as I have said, a new starting point and a station on the road of struggle, which is enriched by youths through resolution, faith, determination, awareness, and cohesion which bolsters our confidence in the inevitability of achieving your objectives and goals. May God bless you, your gathering, and all that you have so far achieved. The ideas and opinions included in the paper [not further identified] will be discussed by you. We are among you, with you, and will support you by all means and resources. As long as I live, I will be proud, as I have always been, that I am only one of you; no more, no less—a Hashemite Jordanian Arab from this good tribe and big family. God willing, our heads are always held high with right. God Almighty takes care of our march, and from Him we seek success. May God bless you.

Deportee Spokesman on Return of Sick, Injured

NC0802180893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, said today that sick and injured deportees will not be allowed to be taken to Israel even if they face death. Yesterday, Israeli forces moved five sick deportees from south Lebanon to an Israeli prison.

Al-Rantisi added that all the deportees must be allowed to return or no one will return. He reiterated his call on the Arab states participating in the peace talks to withdraw from the talks.

Criticizes Butrus-Ghali Silence

NC0902135393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees have criticized UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's silence over the need for a Security Council meeting to implement the international resolution calling for their return home. In remarks to reporters, deportees spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi asked: How could Butrus-Ghali not call the Security Council to meet?

Al-Rantisi said that if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher wished to visit the camp and see the conditions, he would force Israel to back down on its decision and to implement UN Resolution 799 calling for the immediate return of the deportees.

Al-Hariri Said Ready for Agreement With Israel

NC0902075993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri says he hopes U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration will focus on promoting the peace process and will reverse the decision to ban travel by American citizens to Lebanon.

The magazine MIDDLE EAST INSIGHT cites him as saying that Lebanon is prepared to reach an agreement with Israel and implement Resolution 425 even if there is no progress in negotiations on the other tracks.

Al-Hariri Interviewed on Reconciliation, Rebuilding

PM0902075893 Paris LE MONDE in French 7-8 Feb 93 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Lucien George in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Beirut—[George] Is it true, as rumor has it, that you are discouraged by the deterioration in state services?

[Al-Hariri] I am now more determined than ever to go ahead. The root of the problem is that everything needs

to be rebuilt—electricity, telecommunications, the airport, the port, and finally, the country's whole infrastructure, its whole public administration.

[George] How will you handle the problem?

[Al-Hariri] By breaking with the methods of the past. I am not saying in advance that a civil servant, if he is qualified and honest, should not have relations with politicians; that is the case throughout the world. But no politician can impose an incompetent or dubious civil servant on me. Is this impossible in Lebanon? You will see that I will do what I say.

[George] Will the honest and qualified people to whom you are referring agree to work in public administration?

[Al-Hariri] You sometimes have nice surprises! In advertisements, especially in French newspapers, we invited the Lebanese to apply to work in their country's civil service. The answers exceeded my hopes. Around 100 offers of services reached me from abroad from highly competent young compatriots, with degrees from the best universities, occupying excellent positions giving them comfortable incomes in the countries where they have settled and which they will have to sacrifice to return to the country. All wrote to me to tell me: "We are prepared to work with you." I can show you their letters.

[George] Was your main political plan not national reconciliation?

[Al-Hariri] I am working on it constantly and I am meeting with all the protagonists, especially in the Christian camp. I have succeeded in opening the door to dialogue; people who did not talk to each other seem to us to be showing goodwill. Caution is necessary and we must not be too hasty. I want to build confidence between the state and the citizens on the one hand, and between Muslims and Christians on the other.

[George] You are one of the main architects of the al-Ta'if agreement to end the war. It is allegedly being poorly implemented.

[Al-Hariri] There are in fact still a few important outstanding points. The abolition of confessionalism is one and we are in an intermediate phase on that. Some fundamental changes have already been made, especially the equal division (between Christians and Muslims) of parliamentary seats. I have just made another by switching the ministerial portfolios between the communities. The same is true of top positions in the civil service. For all the others, confessionalism has been eliminated and only an overall balance will be taken into consideration. We still need to carry out a balanced economic development between the regions to complete the process of the elimination of religious divisions. The Lebanese will then decide on the future of political confessionalism in their country.

[George] Another crucial point in the al-Ta'if agreement: Has the at least partial withdrawal of Syrian forces not remained a dead letter?

[Al-Hariri] That is true. But the vacuum which a Syrian redeployment would cause now would present security problems, especially in the regions to which displaced persons are returning; the army and the internal security forces, although reunified are still under-equipped. Despite our requests, no friendly country has given us aid or significant credit.

[George] Do you think that the case of the expelled Palestinians is likely to cause deadlock in the Israeli-Arab peace negotiations? Will Beirut participate in them?

[Al-Hariri] If the preliminary negotiations resume without this affair being settled, they will be all the more difficult. We will not go it alone. There will certainly be a common Arab position. At all events, Lebanon's firmness on this matter will be our style of government.

[George] The market is still very depressed and this dispels the illusion that the arrival of Rafiq al-Hariri in government would be like waving a magic wand over the economy.

[Al-Hariri] I have only been in government for three months. An enterprise which is in difficulty needs much more time to be put back on its feet; what can be said about a country which has been paralyzed for 17 years? Give me at least 6 to 8 months. Having said that, things are starting to improve.

[George] But the Arab investors are only interested in property, not in productive investments.

[Al-Hariri] That is because Lebanese laws ought to give more incentive to investors, especially in the sphere of taxes. It is better to reduce those and collect them. The same is true of administrative formalities.

[George] Are you expecting aid to rebuild Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] We expect the industrialized countries to give long-term credit and financial agreements under the terms of which they would supply us with goods and which would give us access to advantageous rates. The Gulf Arabs are clearly the main holders of private funds likely to be invested in Lebanon. Of course, they are still only interested in property, but that is a start.

[George] What do you expect from France?

[Al-Hariri] I am convinced that France is our natural European partner and that we should have closer links in the economic and cultural spheres. Lebanon has closed the chapter of war and is in the rebuilding phase. France can play a dominant role in that. I have tried to improve our relations, to settle the financial dispute, and to lay the foundations of new bilateral cooperation.

Fadlallah Says UN, U.S. Working for Israel

NC0502182393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] 'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the United States and the Security Council are working in the interests of Israel by ignoring a comprehensive solution to the deportees issue. He believes that there is a policy in Lebanon seeking to confuse and distract the people with a certain economic reality. Fadlallah asked the government not to make the citizens prisoners of companies and debts.

Tehran Paper Interviews Fadlallah on Issues

NC0802162293 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jan 93 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Hizballah spiritual leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by unidentified correspondent in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] [ETTELA'AT] What are America's plans for the region? Why do the Americans propound the issue of the Iranian islands one day and the Iraqi missiles the next? Generally speaking, what objectives is America pursuing in the region?

[Fadlallah] When America raises the issue of the islands that are disputed by Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], it wants to convey a message to Iran that it can cause it concern in political and other fields. The Americans also want to say that they can place Iran under pressure to change its policies toward improving relations with the United States. I foresee the Americans inflicting more pressure on Iran through other means.

I am worried the Americans will fan the flames of the Kurdish problem in Iran. But I do not think they will want to resort to extensive political activities against Iran, because the regional political situation does not let them.

As for America reviving the issue of the Iraqi missiles, in the last days of Bush's rule, Saddam wanted to throw down the gauntlet to him. With his recent operations, Saddam wanted to pave favorable international grounds to open the door of negotiations with America within the framework of the Security Council or directly with American officials. But Bush retaliated against Saddam's aggression so that no one would assume that Saddam could defeat him. Under current conditions, we should keep an eye on America's actions and activities in the region.

[ETTELA'AT] In line with the expansion of the new wave of Islamic awakening, we see Muslims everywhere being placed under stronger pressures, for example the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Palestine, in Southern Lebanon, in India, and.... What do you think should be done to confront this situation?

[Fadlallah] After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the stabilization of the position of the Islamic

Republic of Iran and after the awakening in Islam, America and Europe consider Islam to be a serious threat to the West.

This interpretation stems from stances that NATO members, the former British prime minister, and political officials in France adopted on Islam's awakening. The Westerners—Americans and Europeans—plan to involve the Muslims in various issues. This can be by involving the Muslims in an Islamic country in a conflict against their rule or involving one Islamic country in a fight against another. The West has hatched this plan to upset the Muslims' equilibrium and tranquillity and prevent solidarity and unity among Muslims so that Muslims will not become a power and will be unable to take their own affairs and rule into their own hands.

This is what we see in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is a contest between Europe and America on the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem. The Americans do not want to interfere in the problem while some European governments adopt better stances. I think both sides are trying, long after the crisis' outset, to achieve a special situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina so that the Bosnians will face a fait accompli and will be unable to react favorably to the situation that will be imposed on them. We can see this plot in the plan proposed by the UN representatives and by the American representative on solving the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem.

Based on this plan, Bosnia-Herzegovina will be divided into 10 districts, most of which will be under Serb authority.

We think the issue is the declaration of a war against Islam, which has brought freedom and justice to the world. This is an act against dynamic Islam, which has risen against world arrogance. The West is trying to distract this Islam from its positions and to involve it in problems so that Islam will not become a power threatening the interests of world arrogance.

But the Muslims can rise to confront this plot by better understanding their problems and by adopting deliberate stances. I do not want to say that Islamic governments should form a single government or follow a single leadership, although this is the great objective that we, the Muslims, have, which some Muslims do believe is impossible to achieve. The Muslims should know that they are being threatened by the great danger of the arrogant powers, particularly after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and with America's wish to become the world's sole leader. America does not see any difference between those Islamic governments that are its allies and those that are its enemies, because it fears that its allies will become enemies once the spirit of Islam is revived.

This is why I think the Muslims should try to set aside the conflicts among governments and among Islamic countries so that they can use their strength in the best

way possible to concentrate their efforts against America's great aggressiveness, which today targets the world of Islam. It is under these conditions that we can advance.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you assess the future of Islamic movements? Can these movements be crushed in Egypt, Algeria, and other places or will these efforts die down in time?

[Fadlallah] I think the Islamic movement has found its place in the world's political order, which is why it is very difficult for anyone to claim that Islamic movements can be crushed or weakened quickly. But again, we cannot tell what developments will be. It is only natural for each Islamic or political movement to understand the conditions it faces, be these conditions specifically aimed at one movement in particular or the world of Islam in general. But I would like to stress that there is a difference between a political movement and an Islamic political movement, because an Islamic one bases its rules on the realities of an Islamic society, where even those who do not interfere in political affairs are affected by Islamic teachings and virtue. These ideological bases have positive effects on confronting world arrogance, even if the attempts by these people who do not interfere in political affairs against world powers do not have a political aspect and are only based on fulfilling their religious duties.

In Islamic jurisprudence we have the scholars whose duty is to determine religious duties. These people explain to those believers who are not involved in politics the political aspects of issues and teach these pure-hearted believers that in the same way they perform their prayers, they should also carry out the jihad in the path of God.

[ETTELA'AT] Why are American forces in Somalia? What plans do the Americans have in Africa?

[Fadlallah] We think the American presence in Somalia is not humanitarian or philanthropic. We think America's policy has imposed this complicated political situation on Somalia and has brought hunger and famine to the Somali nation. America decided to send troops to Somalia before the Security Council resolution was issued.

I think America's objective in sending military forces to Somalia is to dominate the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. This is also linked with the process of Islamism in Sudan.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view the deportation of over 400 Palestinians and what effects can this deportation have on the intifadah or on other developments inside Arab countries?

[Fadlallah] I think Israel's objective in deporting the Palestinians is to worsen the conflict between the PLO and Hamas.

One of Israel's objectives is to create a rift among the combatant factions of the Palestinians and to thus achieve its objective of pressurizing the intifadah.

Israel's deportation of the Palestinians follows another objective: making Arab governments such as Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia understand that they should act like the Zionists in confronting the Islamists; in other words, they should expel antistate revolutionaries. This recent act by the Israeli Government serves the retrogressive Arab regimes. It also aims to strengthen the compromising processes of the Palestinians who have participated in the peace talks. Another one of Israel's objectives in deporting the Palestinians is to create a problem for Lebanon and to pave the way for another aggression against it. But the truth is that the deportation of the Palestinians has not fulfilled any of Israel's objectives.

Arab governments cannot accompany Israel in confronting Islamists. These governments may act against Islamists inside Islamic countries, but they will not act against Islamists in Palestine, because the struggle of the Palestinian Muslims against the usurping Israeli Government is a legitimate struggle from the point of view of Arab government leaders.

The PLO has realized that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has acquired an acceptable legitimacy in the Palestinian nation, so the PLO cannot agree with Israel's action. If it does, it will lose its position among the Palestinians. The PLO considers itself to be the government of Palestine, so it cannot agree with the deportation of the Palestinians.

The Lebanese and other Arab governments resist Israel's actions because Israel's deportation of the Palestinians can lead to the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon. And if the Arabs do not adopt decisive stances, Israel will be encouraged to deport another group of Palestinians into Lebanese territory. So Israel sees itself facing a tight bottleneck, because the deportation of the Palestinians has again revealed its savage face. This comes when the Israeli regime spreads propaganda that the Israeli Government is the only civilized government in the region! Under such circumstances, I do not think the problem of the deported Palestinians will have a negative impact on the Arab countries, which must even feign support for Palestine if necessary. The world community also stands next to the Palestinians and opposes Israel.

By collaborating with Israel and with some of its Arab allies, America will use the issue of the deported Palestinians to put pressure on the hopes of Arabs and Palestine to gain more concessions in the peace talks and Israel will also exploit this issue as a political or security commodity. We now hear that Israeli is proposing that if the Palestinians stop the intifadah during the peace talks, the deportees will return to Israel. So this issue has created new dimensions in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

[ETTELA'AT] You have been cited in your Friday sermons as asking the Security Council to set up a "no-fly zone" like southern Iraq's over Lebanon. The Security Council is a tool in America's hands, so is your proposal not tantamount to an approval of American policies?

[Fadlallah] In my Friday sermons I have called on America to create a security zone. But I have also criticized American policies in a bid to disgrace these policies and America's commitments to Israel. I told the American statesmen: You have created a no-fly zone over southern Iraq on the pretext that you want to protect the Shiites there. But I do not believe in your goodwill, because you have created the grounds for the failure of the popular uprising against Saddam in Iraq and fanned the flames of the Kuwaiti war. But if you are serious in this, why don't you prevent Israel's air strikes against the Lebanese who cannot resist the strikes? These remarks are not tantamount to begging from America but are a protest against American policies, which try to protect America's own interests in Iraq, not the interests of the Iraqi nation; this is why it has not done anything similar in Lebanon.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you assess the situation in Lebanon after the coming to power of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri?

[Fadlallah] There have been no basic changes; previously, Lebanon was on the verge of destruction.

The Christians threatened Lebanon's national unity in the political sphere and the economy reached a state such that the dollar rate was at its highest and was unstable. Al-Hariri's election aimed to prevent the annihilation of Lebanon. He enjoyed political credibility among the people and it was assumed that he could solve some of the Lebanese people's problems. Unfortunately, no notable change has taken place and Lebanon remains surrounded by the problems of the Middle East. America has imposed economic sanctions on Lebanon and does not allow financial assistance from Europe, Arab countries, or the Persian Gulf to reach it.

[ETTELA'AT] Recently you criticized the sale of Lebanon to foreign companies. Please explain.

[Fadlallah] There is a law in Lebanon that allows the government to establish a commercial company with the help of foreign investment in any war-stricken city it wants.

We believe that these commercial companies intend to exploit. Persian Gulf states and European countries have a share in investments by these companies. I believe these economic processes are being organized to dominate Lebanon.

[ETTELA'AT] Are you aware of the process of Lebanese-Israeli peace talks? What topics are the sides discussing and how much have the talks progressed?

[Fadlallah] The talks have not progressed one step.

Israel wants peace from Lebanon without achieving peace and compromise with the other Arabs. Lebanon rejects the signing of a separate peace agreement with Israel and calls for the signing of an agreement on neutrality and the implementation of Resolution 425. So Israel constantly stresses that it does not hold the key to a Lebanese solution and that a solution depends on

solving problems with the Syrians. If Israel signs a peace agreement with Syria, peace with Lebanon will also be achieved. So Lebanon cannot achieve peace with Israel outside the framework of a solution of Syrian-Israeli problems.

[ETTELA'AT] With Resolutions 242 and 338 forming the basis of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, does Lebanon's plan for talks within the framework of Resolution 425 not mean deviation from the basis for the peace talks?

[Fadlallah] We believe Lebanon did not play a part in the Madrid conference that was formed on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

When these resolutions were approved, Lebanon was not occupied by Israel. Aggression was committed against it in 1978 and 1982. So the current talks did not help to solve Lebanon's problems, although during the talks, Lebanon tried to solve its problem.

Lebanon's presence in the peace talks is influenced by strong American pressures on Lebanese statesmen. The peace talks are not based on the two resolutions. The main pivot of the talks is establishing peace between the Arabs and Israel, so Israel is trying to resort to any means to achieve peace with its neighbors, although some of its neighbors have nothing to do with Resolution 242.

[ETTELA'AT] What proposals do you have to overcome the political denominationalism in Lebanon? Have you or the Lebanese Government taken any specific step on this?

[Fadlallah] I think the Lebanese Government has not taken any effective steps toward this. There are still many political differences and a lack of understanding among some of the Christian and Muslim factions. The Christians are worried about ending denominationalism in Lebanon, because the Muslims enjoy a majority. They fear that the Muslims may determine the fate of the Christians. So it will take a long time to remove denominationalism from the Lebanese scene in view of the existing unfavorable situation. I think America plays an effective role in worsening denominationalism in Lebanon. As an example, I can refer to al-Ta'if pact, which was signed among the rival groups in Lebanon on the proposal of former American Ambassador to Iraq Glaspie.

[ETTELA'AT] What is your opinion of the al-Ta'if pact?

[Fadlallah] We reject the part of the al-Ta'if pact that stresses the political system that is the system of denominationalism. But we have no problems with the pact's other articles.

We are Muslims and want to solve our problems with plans that are based on Islam. But the al-Ta'if pact points to a gradual solution of the problem of denominationalism in Lebanon.

[ETTELA'AT] The Syrian forces were to withdraw from Lebanon after the elections. Why are they still there?

[Fadlallah] The Syrians said they would leave Lebanon two years after the al-Ta'if agreement was signed. If

al-Ta'if's objective on ending political denominationalism in Lebanon is not achieved and this problem is not solved, the two years outlined for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon will not start. Of course America does not agree with Syria's interpretation of the al-Ta'if agreement. Nor does it want to argue with Syria, because the Syrian delegation participates in the discussions with the Israeli side in the peace talks.

[ETTELA'AT] With the Lebanese Government having stated that after 20 years, it has reached an independent decision on the Palestinian deportees, do you accept the Lebanese Government's independent ruling on this issue?

[Fadlallah] I think the Lebanese Government's political independence has a political propaganda aspect. Lebanon needs a long time to make any decisions independently.

[ETTELA'AT] What is your comment on the presence of Lebanese Hizballah deputies in the Lebanese Parliament?

[Fadlallah] I think Hizballah's role in every field will be positive and the presence of Hizballah deputies in parliament proves that the Muslims have reached a good level of political awareness. I think that in the future too, God willing, Hizballah will continue to play its positive role.

[ETTELA'AT] How are relations between the Shiites of Lebanon—Hizballah and Amal?

[Fadlallah] Relations between Amal and Hizballah are good and I think there are positive, logical, and balanced relations between the leaders of the two movements. Of course we hope that relations between the movements will improve.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you assess relations between Iran and Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] I think relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lebanon should be good, because these relations are in the interests of Iran and Lebanon, especially those of the entire Lebanese nation and all Muslims in general.

Therefore, I think the current meetings can strengthen Iranian-Lebanese relations.

Hizballah Official Says U.S. Not Reliable

NC0902080293 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0630 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, has said the Islamic revolution in Iran signaled a turning point, giving birth to Islamic movements everywhere to restore people's nobility and unseat the despotic rulers.

On Lebanon, Shaykh Qasim said the liberation of the occupied land is not the responsibility of the Islamic or another resistance alone, but the responsibility of everyone in the homeland.

At a rally organized by Hizballah's Education Mobilization Department in al-Sabbah secondary school in al-Nabatiyah on the birthday of Imam al-Mahdi, may God speed his holy advent, Shaykh Qasim said that those who gamble on the United States will lose, because the United States is the one that is trying to confuse us and plunder our wealth. It cannot be relied upon, he added.

French Experts Study Army Weapons Needs 'Secretly'

NC0902081793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The French magazine L'EXPRESS has revealed that a French committee of industrial experts secretly visited Beirut on the instructions of French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe to study the Lebanese Army's weapons needs.

Minister Visits Sidon; Israeli Shelling Reported

NC0602094193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij, accompanied by senior Interior Ministry officials, today visited Sidon and met with al-Janub Governor Halim Fayyad and a number of military and security commanders and district commissioners. During his meetings, the minister stressed the need to liberate the south and extend the state's authority over all Lebanese territory.

Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation forces this morning raked the eastern hills of Kafr Tibnin from their positions in al-Dabshah using 12.7-mm machine guns.

At dawn today, the occupation forces shelled the al-Litani River basin and al-Hamra' farm from their positions in 'Alman. They also shelled the outskirts of 'Arab Salim, Humin al-Fawqa, and Jarju'. The shelling was accompanied by bursts of large-caliber machine-gun fire. Three houses in Humin al-Fawqa were extensively damaged.

Amal Hands Over Weapons To Army Command in South

NC0502181693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The Army Command in the south today received a quantity of weapons from the Amal Movement at former Amal training centers in al-Zahrani. They were transported aboard 15 military trucks to the Muhammad Zughayb barracks in Sidon. The shipment included a number of 23- and 24-mm anti-aircraft guns, mortars of various calibers, tank and other kinds of ammunition, military equipment, and beds.

Israeli Military Denies Katyusha Rocket Attack

NC0702222393 Paris AFP in English 2213 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Feb 7 (AFP)—Four Katyusha rockets were fired Sunday at northern Israel from south Lebanon, Lebanese security forces reported.

But the sources said they did not know where the rockets landed or whether there were any casualties.

Anti-Israeli guerrillas, including Muslim fundamentalists, frequently launch attacks at Israeli-controlled areas of south Lebanon and also at northern Israel.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli military source said no firing of Katyusha rockets had been reported Sunday in northern Israel or the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Resistance Launches Attack; Israeli Shelling Follows

NC0802134093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The resistance has carried out a 107-mm rocket attack against the Bayt Yahun position. Following this, the occupation forces shelled the villages of 'Ayta al-Jabal, Shaqra, the environs of Tibnin, and nearby areas. They also raked the position's vicinity using large-caliber machine guns.

Israeli Intelligence Officers Killed in Attack

NC0802174793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The resistance in the south has announced that one of its groups launched an anti-tank rocket attack against an occupation position near the Bayt Yahun crossing on the western border of the occupied strip. The resistance statement said that a car transporting Israeli intelligence officers was hit, and all occupants were killed or wounded. A Lahd militia source admitted that the operation had taken place, but claimed no casualties had been reported.

This afternoon, Israeli forces shelled Tibnin, Bra'shit, Haddathah, Shaqra, and 'Ayta al-Jabal from their positions in Muhaybib hill and Bayt Yahun.

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives, Met by al-Asad

JN0902124193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1330 today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. Mubarak was also received by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

After the reception ceremony, the two presidents held a meeting that was attended on the Syrian side by Khaddam, al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish. For Egypt, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying President Mubarak which comprises 'Amr Musa, foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; Usamah al-Baz, head of President Mubarak's office for political affairs; Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the presidential office; and Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Reviews Visit, Leaves

LD0702175193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1526 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 7 Feb (KUNA)—Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the demarcation of the sea borders between Iraq and Kuwait will start next March after the completion of the demarcation of the land borders.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added in a press statement on his departure from Damascus today for Djibouti: "I met today with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and delivered to him a written message from his highness the amir of our country." [passage omitted] He also pointed out that he "met in Damascus with some Iraqi opposition figures, when he reaffirmed that Kuwait is with any Iraqi opposition which believes in the unity of Iraq and the unity of Iraq's Arabism."

In reply to a question on whether he received a message from these Iraqi figures, he said "I am not carrying any message from them; I only met them." Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad before his departure.

It was officially announced that President al-Asad has charged Shaykh Sabah with a reply message to his highness the amir of Kuwait, and that the talks dealt with the developments in the region and the situation in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

A statement issued by the Syrian Foreign Ministry said that the two sides had expressed their condemnation of Iraqi violations against Kuwait and demanded the return of Kuwaiti prisoners of war detained in Iraq. The two sides stressed their desire to preserve the unity and integrity of Iraqi territory and people.

The statement added that the two sides exchanged views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the obstacles placed by Israel through all stages of the peace process. In this regard the two sides stressed the need for implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on which the peace process is established and demanded the return of all Palestinian deportees to their homes. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit

JN0702180893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus today after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Foreign Ministry's director of protocol, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus Ibrahim al-Musa, and Kuwaiti Embassy staff members.

In statements to SANA correspondent, Shaykh al-Sabah said: I was honored to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and I delivered to him a written message from his brother the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. He added: I am happy with this meeting which we always hoped would take place. Thanks be to God, this meeting with his Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad took place today.

Responding to a question on the Damascus Declaration, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said that the Damascus Declaration was born to live and not to die. He added: It is a declaration with economic, military, and political dimensions.

In reply to question on his meeting with the Iraqi opposition, he said: I met with some brothers in the Iraqi opposition. We always support any national opposition that believes in the unity and Arabism of Iraq.

On the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, Shaykh al-Sabah said: I discussed this issue with the brothers I visited. We asked for our friends' assistance and work on pressuring Iraq to release the Kuwaiti hostages and prisoners in Iraq. There are international resolutions which call for the release of these prisoners. The embargo imposed on the Iraqi regime is a result of Iraq's failure to implement UN Security Council resolutions, including its failure to implement the resolution calling for the release of Kuwaiti hostages and prisoners.

Asked about the demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti land border has been demarcated and that the sea border will be demarcated next month.

Unified Arab Stance Urged To Face Challenges

JN0902083593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the recent intensive political activities in Damascus and other Arab capitals, and stresses the need to unify the Arab stance. The paper says: During the past few days, Damascus and other Arab capitals have witnessed intensive political activity that is clearly aimed at crystallizing a unified Arab vision of certain issues that are of concern to the Arabs. Naturally, the Arab-Israeli conflict remains the basis and pivot of any activity or move made at any level.

AL-BA'TH refers to the telephone conversation between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak and al-Asad's meetings with the Saudi crown prince and the Kuwaiti foreign minister. Lauding the series of meetings held among Arab officials in Damascus and other Arab capitals, the paper adds: Talks focused on the need to crystallize a unified Arab stance that will help the Arab nation overcome the situation it has reached. Such a stance would also help this nation work together to confront developments that may pose a greater threat to the nation's present and future, especially as the historic enemies of the Arab nation are preparing to pounce on the remainder of the nation at any time they deem appropriate.

AL-BA'TH continues: Israel, which was obliged to attend the Madrid conference, has not changed its aggressive, expansionist policy. It could even be said that Israel is widening the circle of violence, killings, and mass deportations. At the same time, Israel continues to reject all UN resolutions. This confirms that Israel also rejects a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs are urged to review meticulously the past phase and seriously and honestly work for crystallizing a specific, clear pan-Arab vision on how to deal with developments, particularly the conflict with Israel, which should remain a pan-Arab conflict. It should not in any way or for any reason turn into anything else. This is because the Israeli scheme targets everyone without exception.

U.S. Urged To Reconsider Stand on Deportees

JN0802180893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Intensive Arab efforts and contacts are currently under way to discuss two issues, Israel's deportations and the resumption of the peace process, on the eve of the tour U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make to the region. All Arab parties have affirmed that while they are keen to resume the peace process, they see a need for preparing the climate for this by resolving the deportations issue. At a time when the Arabs and the international community stress the need for Israel to implement Resolution 799 as the only way to resolve this issue, Israel is working to end

this issue within the framework of the package deal it has concluded with Washington in this regard. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin seems to have managed to push the U.S. Administration, through this deal, to a confrontation with the Arab position, which rejects this deal, which is a manifestation of a U.S. tilt toward the Israeli position, and also of disregard for a resolution passed by the highest international authority. Rabin has even made public his satisfaction over his ability to push Washington to adopt this position, which he viewed as a personal triumph. This is because he thinks that this triumph has absolved him of responsibility for the consequences of the criminal deportations he carried out. Rabin made this perfectly clear when he said that it is the U.S. Administration's job to resolve this issue in accordance with the U.S.-Israeli deal.

Even though denials of this were made later, Rabin was reported to have boasted of prompting President Bill Clinton's administration to back down on a principled U.S. position opposing mass deportations by eliciting its acceptance of the repatriation of only 100 Palestinian deportees and its endorsement of the deportation of the remaining 300 others. Washington seems to have begun to realize the dimensions of this Israeli game. This gives rise to the hope that the U.S. Administration will reconsider its position on the deal and intensify its pressures on Israel to make it comply with international will by revoking the deportation decision. Unless Washington reconsiders its position in this regard, many questions will be raised by Arabs about whether Washington is really capable of playing the role of an honest and impartial broker in the course of its efforts to find a settlement to the Middle East conflict, given the fact that Israeli pressures immensely influenced the U.S. Administration and brought about a retreat in one of the latter's principled positions; namely, its position on mass deportations.

Furthermore, the demand that the U.S. Administration show respect for the resolutions of international legitimacy is a basic Arab demand, particularly since the Arab sides' demands pertaining to the restoration from Israel of their usurped rights within the context of the peace process are based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. Consequently, how can the U.S. role be trusted if Washington chooses to circumvent a Security Council resolution on a small issue, such as the deportees issue, and concludes a bilateral deal with Israel—one that is diametrically opposed to international legitimacy, and even to principled U.S. positions? How can this trust materialize when this deal is accorded a status higher than that of the relevant Security Council resolution? Washington continues to believe that it must put pressures on the Arab sides to make them accept the U.S.-Israeli deal on the deportees. Given this state of affairs, the Arabs hope that the inter-Arab contacts and meetings currently under way will manage to make a response to cogently convince Washington that its position on the issue is mistaken.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Fighting in, Around Kabul

Golboddin Offensive Foiled

LD0802170493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1600 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Golboddin's rebellious forces attempted an offensive this morning in two directions, east and south. They bombarded residential areas with heavy weapons and missiles.

An authoritative source in the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported to a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that, after firing heavy artillery and missiles on residential areas, the rebellious forces began an offensive in the eastern direction overnight under cover of artillery fire. The forces of the Islamic State resorted to a counterattack this morning and pushed back the rioters and inflicted casualties on them. In addition, a number of eastern regions were cleared.

In the south, the rebellious forces attempted to advance, but the enemy plan was thwarted due to heavy artillery fire and an aerial bombardment. In today's operation, two enemy tanks were eliminated, and an artillery battery was destroyed.

The source added that rebellious forces also fired missiles today on Kabul city. Their targets were mainly residential areas and state buildings. According to security sources, today's missile attacks on the city have been the most severe attacks of the last 20 days.

Over 200 Missiles Launched

LD0802172293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Rockets fired by the rebellious Golboddin forces rained down on the crowded parts of the city today, killing and injuring dozens of people.

Reporting this, an authoritative security source told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that the rebellious Golboddin forces fired more than 200 missiles at people's homes, mosques, and public buildings. They martyred 54 of our innocent compatriots and injured more than 100.

The source added that today's missiles hit most parts of the city. As well as causing loss of life, they caused considerable financial damage. The rebels' missiles also damaged a mosque in Kolalay, Dehmazang [Kabul city], and set fire to a number of public buildings.

Iranian, Turkish Embassies Hit

LD0802172193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Afghanistan was hit again by a number of rockets this afternoon. According to a Voice and Vision correspondent's report from Kabul, this caused a fire, which was immediately brought under control. It is the sixth time that the Iranian Embassy was hit by rockets in the past few months.

According to other reports from Afghanistan, the Turkish Embassy in Kabul was also hit by rockets this morning.

Clandestine Notes Rabbani's Status at Saudi Talks

LD0902130493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Here is a statement from the leadership of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We repeat once again that Borhanoddin Rabbani will be taking part in negotiations as head of his formation. As we had agreed on talks in Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the custodian of the two holy mosques, we had said that Rabbani should take part at these negotiations as head of his formation, not as president. If Rabbani cannot take part in talks in Saudi Arabia, we are ready for [word indistinct] talks under these conditions.

Bangladesh

Minister Rejects Allegation on By-Election Result

BK0802151493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Abdus Salam Talukder, secretary general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and minister of local government, rural development, and cooperatives, said that the recently held parliamentary by-election for Dhaka-11 of Mirpur constituency had been free, fair, and impartial. Addressing a news conference in Dhaka this afternoon, he said that there are no grounds for the allegation of [word indistinct] in announcing the election results. The minister said that it is established practice to announce unofficial results and this does not contradict the election regulations. He refuted the allegation that the announcement of initial results by citing a nongovernmental news agency influenced the final results. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mian, Food Minister Shamsul Islam, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Information Minister Najmul Huda, Dhaka Municipal Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas, and several members of parliament—Mir Shawkat Ali, Salahuddin Ahmed and Amanullah Aman—were also present at the news conference.

India

Gonzalez-Led Spanish Delegation Begins Visit

BK0802090493 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 0245 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The Spanish foreign minister, Mr. Javier Solana, has said that a high-level delegation led by his prime minister will look for expanding bilateral ties with India. Speaking to newsmen on arrival [of the Spanish delegation led by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez] at the airport in New Delhi last night, he said that talks with the Indian leaders will cover both economic and political relations.

The Spanish prime minister, Mr. Gonzalez, will hold talks with Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao this morning. A number of agreements, including avoidance of double taxation, transfer of prisoners, and a cultural exchange program are to be signed today between the two countries.

Agreement Signed

BK0802094293 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] India and Spain have signed an agreement for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital. The agreement was signed in New Delhi this afternoon by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the Spanish minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Javier Solana. The prime ministers of India and Spain were present. The agreement will come into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification. It provides for concessional tax treatment in specified areas. This will help in the modernization and growth of the Indian industry while encouraging the flow of investment and technology in essential areas. The agreement also contains provisions for exchange of information for preventing tax evasion or fraud.

Earlier, a ceremonial reception was given to the Spanish prime minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] this morning. Mr. Gonzalez arrived in New Delhi last night on a four-day official visit.

The Spanish prime minister called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan this afternoon. Dr. Sharma emphasized the need for greater cooperation between the two countries. During the talks which lasted for half an hour, the president said there are excellent opportunities for India and Spain to strengthen their ties in the economic field in view of the recent reforms in India. Mr. Gonzalez said his country visualizes strengthening of cooperation with India. The president hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary. The vice president, the prime minister, and some cabinet colleagues were present.

Gonzalez, Rao Discuss Cooperation

BK0802130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 1230 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] India and Spain today decided to expand their economic cooperation substantially. The visiting Spanish prime minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, told the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, that his country's businessmen are keen to develop commercial ties with India and take up joint ventures in areas like fisheries. He said Spain needs to find avenues of foreign investment while trying to attract the same from other countries. During their hour-long talks, the two prime ministers had considerable discussion on the liberalized economic policies launched in both countries and avenues for cooperation. Mr. Narasimha Rao told Mr. Gonzalez that the economic reforms started in India are irreversible. There was identity of views on the importance of government intervention to protect the poorer sections of the population and in areas like education. The two prime ministers also exchanged views on terrorism and shared views on how each country looks at their respective problems. The Spanish prime minister said that India has a crucial role to play in international affairs and Spain has a special interest in India which has successfully coped with numerous challenges over the last five decades.

India and Spain today signed four agreements, including a declaration on combating terrorism, organized crime, and economic offenses. The declaration was signed by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and Spanish foreign minister, Mr. Javier Solana. The other agreements are avoidance of double taxation, cultural exchange program for 1993-95, and on the transfer of sentenced persons. The details of the agreement on transfer of sentenced persons are to be worked out later. All the agreements were signed in the presence of the prime ministers of the two countries. The agreement on the avoidance of double taxation signed by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the Spanish foreign minister provides for concessional treatment in specified areas.

Rao Hosts Banquet

BK0902034693 Delhi All India Radio Network in
English 0245 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] India and Spain have pledged to combat terrorism and religious intolerance. They have also sought to exploit the full potential of their bilateral economic cooperation. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has said that the economic liberalization is a clear signal to the world that India will be a reliable, diligent, and a productive partner. He was speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Spanish prime minister, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, in New Delhi last night. He said that India is trying to root out the scourge of cross-border terrorism which is often accentuated by the nexus it has with the religious extremism and drug trafficking. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the situation in Punjab has improved vastly, but Kashmir continues to reel under

lethal terrorist attacks. Mr. Rao said in a world riddled with change of uncertainty, India looks to steady growth in its cooperation, both bilaterally and at other multilateral forums.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Gonzalez said Spain would like to see India as a factor of regional stability and a focal point for development and economic cooperation.

Scientific Cooperation Accord Signed With Mongolia

BK0602074593 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] India and Mongolia are to cooperate in the fields of science and technology. An agreement to this effect was signed between the two countries in New Delhi today by the secretary in the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Mongolian ambassador. The visiting Mongolian first deputy foreign minister, Mr. J. Choinhor, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, were present on the occasion. The agreements include a protocol on scientific and technical cooperation between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Academy of Science of Mongolia. India has also agreed to make available a credit of five crore rupees to Mongolia.

Commentary Views Defense Cooperation With Malaysia

BK0602121393 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Commentary by J.L. Kaul Jalali: "Indo-Malaysian Defense Pact"]

[Text] India and Malaysia have signed an agreement that would pave the way for Malaysia to buy Russian MiG-29 fighters. Indian Defense Minister Mr. Sharad Pawar, who concluded a four-day visit to Kuala Lumpur recently, signed the agreement which provides Malaysia logistic support for MiG's that are common to both the countries. Under the agreement, Malaysia would buy some 30 MiG-29 jets from Russia at a cost of about million dollars each for which parts and services would be provided by India. The memorandum of understanding signed on 2 February opens a new chapter in defense cooperation between India and Malaysia.

The agreement pledges cooperation in new areas such as defense production and research technology sharing. It provides an ideal example of South-South cooperation. India has the capacity to produce a number of defense equipment and can share the technology and expertise in the defense field. The agreement also provides scope for setting up joint ventures for the benefit of both the countries. Describing the defense cooperation with India as an important milestone, Mr. Najib tun Razak, the Malaysian defense minister, hoped that India, with its long experience and knowledge in defense-related matters, will assist Malaysia in areas such as military

training, logistic support, and development of defense industry. On its part, Malaysia is willing to share its expertise in countering insurgency.

The defense pact would further enhance the long existing bilateral relations between the two countries. Through this agreement, India has not only made military inroads into the ASEAN but also pushed the fledgling Indo-U.S. defense cooperation for Asia Pacific Indian Ocean region a step further. In the military sense, India would assist Malaysia in transformation of a largely counterinsurgency force into a modern conventional army. After the cessation of the 41-year-old insurgency by CPM [Communist Party of Malaya] and the North Kalimantan Communist Party in 1989, which coincided with demise of the cold war, Malaysia drew up its new national strategy referred to as Vision 2020 by President [title as heard] Mahathir Mohamed.

Malaysia's sixth plan 1991-95 with defense allocation of 6 billion Malaysian dollars looks for modernization of armed forces. British-Malaysian agreement of 1988 provides 4.8 billion Malaysian dollars for country's biggest arms purchase which include command, control, communication, and intelligence systems, anti-aircraft guns, radar systems, and light guns for the army. Malaysia also seeks to buy 100 British Hawk, 100 jet fighter trainers, and support and maritime surveillance aircraft. All these are one-time purchases. The fundamentals to the evolution of an armed forces are its training, operational logistic support, uninterrupted spares supply, maintenance facilities, and defense product support to achieve self-reliance through indigenization and joint research. This need of Malaysian Air Force is met with under the memorandum of understanding signed with the Government of India.

In March last year, the Malaysian defense minister during his visit to India had sought military logistics and product support to add to their Air Force's ability and fire power. Russia had then offered MiG-29's to Malaysia at almost half the price, that is, \$20 million a piece, but could not assure cheap maintenance and spare backup. India, by virtue of its relatively cheap armaments with assured spares backup, has an excellent arms support market in Malaysia and Indonesia. Malaysia and the ASEAN countries have a potential to develop into a major arms importing region.

Article Notes Development of Fast Breeder Reactors

BK0802134993 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Jan 93 p 4

[By B.M. Shrivastava]

[Text] Will Kakrapar succeed where Kalpakkam failed? That is what is to be seen, and as such, developments at India's fifth atomic power station at Kakrapar will be keenly observed.

The country was to enter into the third phase of its nuclear power programme with the commissioning of

the two Fast Breeder Reactors [FBR's] at its fourth atomic power station at Kalpakkam, 60 km from Madras. The FBR's produce more fuel than they burn up. In the third phase, plutonium, i.e. uranium-239 produced indigenously as a by-product from our thermal nuclear reactors and at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, was to be used as major fuel in the Kalpakkam FBR's to convert depleted uranium into more plutonium as also to convert the minor fuel thorium into uranium-233, another nuclear fuel most suited to India.

However, though commissioned in July 1983, Kalpakkam's first 235 MW reactor has hardly been able to touch the rated capacity. So also is the case with the second reactor of even capacity, commissioned two years later. It was reported in November 1988 that both the units cannot be put to generate to the rated capacity due to technical snags like linear heat rate of fuel. Further, Unit 11 had to be closed down due to leakage of heavy water in the reactor core (calandria) in August 1988. It was commissioned again in the middle of 1989.

The Kakrapar atomic power station, the first unit of which went critical in October 1992, differ from the Kalpakkam power house in the kind of its reactor. Unlike the latter's FBR's, Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR's) are being installed at the former, modelled on the design of the Narora atomic power station in Uttar Pradesh. But as at Kalpakkam, reactors at Kakrapar will also use thorium as a nuclear fuel. What is more, a major fraction of energy would be extracted at Kakrapar from thorium with the plutonium driver fuel.

The Rs [rupees] 382-crore Kakrapar power house has been built on the bank of the River Tapti, about 86 km from Surat in Gujarat State. The construction work for the buildings to house the two reactors was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board Dr. M.R. Srinivasan in December 1984. The first reactor was earlier expected to be commissioned by December 1990 and the second by April the following year.

It is the performance of thorium as a fuel which interested us at Kalpakkam and which for its use in larger quantity has evoked greater interest at Kakrapar. Here one may well ask, why all this fuss over thorium when in India itself and elsewhere in the world uranium and plutonium are being widely used as nuclear fuels? Moreover, India has achieved self sufficiency in nuclear fuels. Beside the above mentioned two fuels, India for the first time in the world evolved a third one—a mixture of carbide fuel—plutonium carbide and uranium carbide. This is more efficient than the promised uranium-plutonium oxide fuel from France.

The reasons for greater stress in India on thorium are the following. All nuclear fuels, unlike fossil fuel coal, come in the form of engineering components, manufactured to exacting standards of purity and precision. Both the fissile uranums, i.e., uranium-235 and uranium 239 (plutonium) are made from natural uranium.

As is known, natural uranium, that is, uranium found in its natural state has two isotopes. Of these two, only uranium-235 is a fissionable material and can therefore be used as fuel for reactors producing the nuclear power. The other isotope, uranium-238, is not a fissile material. It however is made fissile by converting it into uranium-239 (plutonium). This conversion is done in a nuclear reactor by neutron bombardment.

However, the content of the fissionable isotope (U-235) in natural uranium is only about 0.7 per cent and the process for separating it is very expensive. It is now also possible to raise the fissile content of natural uranium. But this enrichment is also a very costly affair.

Nevertheless, it must be noted that use of enriched uranium has two distinct advantages: (A) Such use is more economic for power plants than natural uranium; and (B) uranium enrichment plant comes very handy in manufacturing nuclear bombs.

Process for separating the highly fissile uranium and enriching it being used by the USA, the Russian Republic, Germany, Britain, Holland, China and Pakistan are gaseous diffusion plant, gas centrifuge plant and the process which uses nozzle. India has taken to the fast breeder reactor process.

Second, India is not so fortunate in her reserves of natural uranium as some other countries in the world are. For instance, Africa leads the world in the production of natural uranium. Vast reserves of this nuclear energy mineral in Africa lie in the Congo, Liberia and Nigeria. Reserves of this mineral in India run into only several thousand tonnes. As such, its most judicious use is called for.

However thorium is three to four times more abundant in the earth's crust than natural uranium. So far as India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia are concerned, they are known to be much richer in thorium than uranium. In fact India has 75 p.c. [percent] of the world's known resources of thorium. It has been known from the early years of this century that in the monozite beach sands on the coasts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, India has the largest known deposits of monozite in the world.

These amount to five lakh tonne of thorium, equivalent to all the world's known uranium in ore containing 0.1 p.c. and above fissile material. The monozite sands found on the beaches between Neendakare and Kanyakumari were already rated as the world's largest and richest.

Even larger deposits of monozite have since been discovered on the Ranchi plateau in Bihar and on the borders of the states of West Bengal and Bihar. Monozite deposits on the Ranchi plateau contain some 10 p.c. thorium. Of late thorium and uranium as absorbed elements have also been traced in the seabed sediments along the eastern and western coasts of India.

Some related facilities which have already been provided in the country give a fillip to the hopes raised by Kakrapar atomic power station. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), at Trombay, near Bombay, has already evolved a process for separating uranium-233 from thorium. The BARC's thorium plant and earlier undertaken research on substitution of thorium for uranium as an effective nuclear fuel material are major gains. Such research is also going on in the USA and Germany.

A Test Fast Breeder Reactor which has come up at the Reactor Research Centre near Kalpakkam would facilitate the fuller use of thorium. Alwaye, Kerala, also has a monozite processing plant to produce thorium nitrate and some other related products which are being exported. Such exports are not in the country's long term interests and as such need to be stopped forthwith.

Tamil Nadu Congress-I Group Protests Bomb Blasts

BK0902093693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, the entire Congress-I staged a noisy walkout today over the issue of the recent bomb blasts in the state. Earlier, the house witnessed uproarious scenes when the ruling All India Anna DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members clashed with the Congress-I members over certain remarks by the chief minister. Immediately after the question hour, the chief minister Ms. Jayalalitha, sought clarifications from the speaker on whether the walk out by a section of the Congress-I members yesterday means a split in that party. This drew strong protests from the Congress-I. The leader of the opposition, Mr. S.R. Balasubramaniam, said those who are in responsible positions should not make such remarks. Amidst noisy scenes, the speaker, Mr. Sedappatti Muthaiah, clarified that he has not received any communication about the alleged split in the Congress-I.

Later, making a statement on the Congress-I-sponsored call attention motion, the chief minister said the left extremist groups are suspected to be responsible for the recent bomb blasts in the state. Ms. Jayalalitha ruled out the involvement of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the incidents. The Congress-I members objected to her statement saying that the LTTE involvement cannot be ruled out when investigations are still on.

Former Janata Dal Legislators Join Congress-I

BK0802145193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Agency reports from Jaipur say eight former MLA's [members of legislative assembly] belonging to the Janata Dal-Rajasthan joined the Congress-I today. They were elected under Janata Dal banner in the February 1990 elections. When the Janata Dal split in

November 1990, they sided with the Janata Dal members belonging to the S.R. Bommai group. When this group again split in 1992, these eight MLA's formed a regional party called the Janata Dal-Rajasthan.

BJP Urged Not To Hold Rally in New Delhi

BK0802154893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The government has asked the Bharatiya Janata Party to reconsider its decision of holding a rally in New Delhi on the 25th of this month. In a letter written to the party president, Mr. M. M. Joshi, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has urged him to give up the plans for the rally in the larger national interest. He said in normal situation, holding rally is a way of expressing political dissent, but in the current situation facing the country, it may not be the most advisable course of action. Drawing Dr. Joshi's attention to the highly fragile communal situation in several parts of the country, Mr. Chavan said communal tension is still continuing in many pockets. He said even a minor incident in such situation can lead to serious communal confrontation.

Casualties Reported in Delhi, Kashmir Bomb Blasts

BK0902090693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] One person was killed and two injured in a bomb explosion in the capital around noon today. According to police, the bomb went off around 1145 hours near a vegetable market in Shahdara area of northeast Delhi, killing a middle aged man and injuring his two sons. Senior police officials have reached the spot.

In Jammu and Kashmir, one person was killed while 20 were injured when a bomb exploded inside a passenger bus near Kishtwar about 200 km from Jammu this morning. The injured have been admitted to the government hospital in Kishtwar. Seven seriously injured have been evacuated by helicopter to Jammu. The private bus was on its way from Kishtwar to Gando.

Bid To Infiltrate Territory From Pakistan Foiled

BK0802162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the Army has foiled an attempt of Pakistan-trained militants to infiltrate into Indian territory in the Punch sector, killing four militants and arresting five others. A large quantity of arms and ammunition including AK-56 rifles and rocket launchers were recovered. An official spokesman said in Jammu that the infiltration bid started on last Saturday [6 February], supported by firing by the Pakistani troops. He said the militants fired rockets on the picket of the Indian forces, killing two security personnel.

Eight Soldiers Killed in Kashmir Clashes

BK0802160893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, another eight Indian troops have been killed in clashes with mohajedin. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] the clashes took place in Srinagar, Rajauri, and Jammu in which two mohajedin were also martyred. The occupation forces have stepped up their repressive seige and search operation in various parts of the held valley. In Bhidarwa and Kishtwar, people, including women and children and even ailing persons, were subjected to brutal treatment.

TV Reports Army Search Operations in Kashmir

BK0802121693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, the Army has decided to concentrate on its check and search operations in the daytime for the convenience of the common man. Doordarshan correspondent Rudranath Sanyal has filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Sanyal] Militants had opened fire at an Army convoy from this building behind me in 1989. Their targets were the passing Army convoys. For the Army, it was never easy to separate the militants from the common people who looked similar in appearance. In fact, the militants often used common people as cover. Innocent persons were also misguided into believing that the Army was not friendly. But things are different now. The Army has earned the love and respect of the average Kashmiri. In the valley, like in Delhi or in Bombay, people freely cross over passing convoys as this woman did when we passed. [video shows a veiled woman standing between two military vehicles and soldiers using metal detectors to search passengers dismounting from a bus] And against this picturesque backdrop, buses as crowded as, say, in Calcutta gracefully halt at checkpoints. People have learned that these checks are carried out only to nab the odd militants who might have mingled with them. The Army on its part has decided to carry out its search operation mainly during the day to cause minimum inconvenience to common people. The soldiers often set out in their vehicles for the search operations in the morning and walk a few more kilometers by afternoon. By late afternoon, they take their final briefing near the village to be searched and their final operation is carried out well before noon.

[Corps Commander Lieutenant General S. Nath] The cordon is established during day as well as at night, while the searches are generally confined to daytime only. This is to ensure that minimum inconvenience and hardship is caused to the public. [end recording]

Iran

Velayati Returns From ECO Talks, Comments

LD0802191893 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Practical steps for setting up a trade and development bank, approved at the recent session of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) with an initial capital of \$400 million, will be explored by central bank governors of member states in Tehran in April, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today.

Velayati upon his arrival from Quetta briefed IRNA on decisions taken at the ECO session which ended its work in the Pakistani city yesterday.

The Quetta session was the third regular meeting of foreign ministers of the organisation which groups Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The session, he said, approved ECO's plan of actions. According to the schedule, he added, until the year 2000 practical measures will be taken to expand railroads and highways. It also decided to set up an air network connecting ECO members at the earliest.

According to Velayati member states are expected to set up 40 telecommunications channels with each other within a predicted time and an agreement was reached on the common use of ECO's tele-communications satellite.

A reasonable reduction of trade tariffs on the basis of the list exchanged among the ECO members, as well as cooperation in the oil, gas, electricity and postal sectors were discussed at the session, he added.

In the field of agriculture, he said, the session took decisions to establish an agro-industrial institute for exchange of agricultural technology.

The 10 member countries also agreed to set up a fund to finance studies and other joint development projects.

U.S. Stance on Bosnian Muslims Questioned

LD0602224293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1112 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] On the eve of the New York talks on Bosnia, the Bosnian prosecutor general issued warrants against 41 leaders of the Serbian militia and called on the international community to assist the government of Bosnia to arrest and prosecute those elements at an international court.

It is interesting that many names which are on the list of war criminals are those who are officially taking part at

the New York talks. That matter obviously questions the lack of identity of the Vance-Owen peace talks. [passage omitted]

What is obvious is that the European strategy on Bosnia has definitely failed because the Europeans want to impose their intended solution on all sides. That is an impractical and unjust solution because it is based on a military solution to the war.

Meanwhile, what seems significant is the new American stance as a new element in the crisis. Despite the efforts of the mediators to resume the talks, the Americans have not succeeded in forming a trilateral session with the participation of all the warring sides. So far America has not agreed to support this plan. [passage omitted] What is interesting is the explicit support of America for the Bosnian Muslims. Speaking about the Vance-Owen plan at a news conference, Bill Clinton said that the plan, both in the short and long terms, is detrimental to Muslims.

According to political experts, the new U.S. reaction, and the declaration by U.S. officials that they intend to introduce a new plan, can in fact be seen as a conservative stance, because for a while America has not shown any reaction to the Bosnian crisis and it is trying to take the most political advantage of this political situation.

The best evidence of the double-sided U.S. policy is that it has claimed that America will agree with the plan if all the three involved parties accept it; but at the same time America does not put pressure on any of the sides to accept the plan.

Also, U.S. support for Muslims can be a kind of political game to take advantage of the European countries' weakness, fearing that an Islamic country may be established in Bosnia.

Now it is possible that the United States may insist on further economic sanctions as it has spoken of using military force against ships carrying certain goods such as oil. But Britain, France, Russia, China, and other members of the UN Security Council have opposed that issue. Also, America insists on the cancellation of the military sanctions.

The new American stance has attracted the attention of many political circles, and new conditions may prevail during the next few days.

Majles Deputy Speaker Receives Russian Counterpart

LD0802171793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The deputy speaker of the Russian parliament this morning met his Iranian counterpart, Mr. Ruhani, and called for close cooperation between the two countries in finding solutions to regional issues. The Russian deputy speaker said Iran's mediation in the Karabakh conflict is positive and excellent and that Iran's role in the region is

important, and therefore we wish to have close cooperation and coordination with Iran.

Mr. Ruhani pointed to Iran's mediation efforts as the communication link between the Azarbaijan and Armenian republics with Nakhichevan. He said Iran has close cultural connections with most of the newly independent republics. Iran is concerned over the continuation of problems in and the internal issues of some of the republics, including Tajikistan, and the problem of the republic's refugees living in snow-covered mountains, he said. In these republics we expect the establishment of a true democracy from which a popularly desired government could be established, he said.

Official Lauds Karabakh Mediation

LD0902112193 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—The visiting deputy speaker of the Russian parliament, Ramazan Abdulatipov, who arrived in Tehran Thursday [4 February] on a five-day visit, met with his Iranian counterpart, Hasan Ruhani, here Monday.

He termed as "excellent and positive" Iran's mediation efforts to settle the Karabakh dispute, calling for further closer Tehran-Moscow cooperation on mutual as well as regional issues.

Calling Iran's role in the region "important", the Russian official noted that his country was willing to promote bilateral coordination with Iran while exploring existing grounds of mutual cooperation to restore stability in the region.

Referring to the current potentials in his country, he asked for the upgrading of economic collaborations.

Ruhani in return said that Iran still regarded Russia as a great industrial power, cooperation with which should be developed in industry, culture and defence.

He also commented that Russia as a great regional state could help create international balance of which the Third World countries would benefit.

Underlining closer Moscow-Tehran parliamentary ties, Ruhani voiced Iranian parliament's readiness to set up friendship groups and establish closer ties between the Foreign Relations Commissions.

Pointing to Iran's mediation efforts in Karabakh as a connection link between the two republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia with the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, he expressed concern over the continuation of domestic problems in Tajikistan.

The Russian official left Tehran for Moscow Monday.

Islamic Guidance Minister Meets Afghan Delegation

LD0502181493 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Developments in Afghanistan were discussed in a meeting between a visiting Afghan delegation and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance 'Ali Larijani here Thursday [4 February].

The delegation headed by Deputy Culture and Guidance Minister Haj Gholam Sakhi Mesbah [name as received] is carrying a message from Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to his Iranian counterpart, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Afghan Government led by Borhanoddin Rabbani regards Iran as a supporter and calls for continuation of Iran's assistance, Sakhi Mesbah said. He touched on the continuation of clashes and attacks by Hekmatyar's men and said that the Afghan people were after peace and cessation of these clashes.

Larijani, voiced Iran's support for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan and expressed hope that cooperation would be boosted between the two countries especially in cultural fields.

Daily Assesses Tehran-Ankara Relations

LD0802091593 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—The English daily "TEHRAN TIMES" Monday [8 February] commented on accusations levelled against Iran in connection with the murder of Turkish journalist Ugur Mumcu and said Iran-Turkey common cultural backgrounds and national interests will never allow fruitful friendships to be replaced by destructive enmity.

The daily's editorial said, "Mumcu's murder on January 24 has once again provided a pretext for the abuse of those who would like to disrupt normal relations between Iran and Turkey."

It noted that in the past decade, "certain mysterious and influential groups in Turkey have been trying to seize on any opportunity to create diplomatic crises between Iran and Turkey."

"From Iran's point of view, assassination, especially the killing of a writer and journalist, is a mean act of cowardice which has to be condemned under any circumstances."

"After the heavy blows that have been inflicted on Iraq's war machine in the region, some of the powerful countries outside the region believe they can establish some kind of balance of power in the region by pitting Iran and Turkey against one another."

"Such a theory is of course only a cover for the scheme which aims at causing the waste of the potentials of two of the most important countries which perform key roles in the Islamic world."

"Fortunately all such dangerous and subversive attempts have been thwarted through the clear-sighted and wise decisions of the leaders of the two countries."

The editorial underlined the relative backwardness of both Islamic countries in science and technology and said, "it is highly important for both countries to maintain friendly relationships, and utilize all their resources to make up for the lost opportunities in catching up with the progress of science and technology."

"Common cultural backgrounds, common national interests and clear-sighted thinking on the part of the leaders of both countries, will never allow fruitful friendships to be replaced by destructive enmity," concluded TEHRAN TIMES.

Condolence Messages Issued on Plane Crash

LD0902110893 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—A "crisis headquarters" set up at the Civil Aviation Organization [CAO] today expressed deep condolences to the relatives of Monday's [8 February] air crash victims.

It also said in an announcement that the responsible authorities were studying the cause of the incident which killed at least 132 passengers on a Tehran-Mashad flight minutes after take-off.

The Tupolev passenger plane collided with a military Sukhoi aircraft in midair causing the disaster. The two pilots of the Sukhoi plane were also killed.

The CAO announcement said the results of the technical investigations would be published upon completion.

On the same occasion, members of the cabinet and head of the judiciary condoled the bereaved families in separate messages.

Meanwhile, Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif also sent messages of condolences to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the tragic accident.

Also the foreign guests attending celebrations marking the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution here, expressed condolences to the Iranian nation and relatives of the victims.

Khamene'i Expresses Condolences

LD0802193493 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, on Monday

condoled the relatives of about 132 passengers who lost their lives in today mornings' disastrous air crash in Tehran.

In his message Ayatollah Khamene'i prayed for the souls of the victims and urged the bereaved families to exercise patience.

A Russian Tupolev aircraft chartered by Iran Air tours collided with a military Sukhoi plane minutes after take off from Mehrabad Airport for Mashhad and disintegrated leaving no survivors.

Cabinet's Condolences on Air Crash

LD0802220893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed regret about the heart-rending incident of the collision between the passenger airliner and the military aircraft near Tehran and sent condolences to the families of the victims.

The text of the Cabinet statement is as follows:

In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. From God we are, and to Him do we return. The sad news of the heart-rending incident of the collision between the Tehran-Mashhad passenger airliner and a military aircraft, in which a number of our dear compatriots died, is a cause of great regret.

While expressing condolences to the families of the victims, the cabinet asks God Almighty to grant mercy and forgiveness to the victims and patience and reward to their families.

DPRK Assembly Chairman Ends Visit, Leaves Tehran

LD0802115693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Yang Hyong-sop, the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, left Tehran this morning after a six-day visit. Before his departure, he termed his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials as beneficial and expressed the hope that the two anti-imperialist countries' relations would grow even stronger with the Majles speaker's visit to North Korea.

Sermon Given on Iran as Basis for Fundamentalism

LD0502205893 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini-Najafabadi, member of the Council of Experts, in Qom on 5 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] What is important about our revolution which sets it apart from other revolutions is its Islamic nature. We have had many revolutions in the world. There have even been many revolutions in Islamic countries. Some of them have succeeded and a few of them are still in power. However, none of them had Islamic credentials. They had other motivations, such as fighting against tyranny and injustice, or on the basis of class struggles the workers have carried out a revolution against the capitalist classes. This is true of all other revolutions. None of them had any Islamic credentials.

This is the important point. The downfall of the monarchical regime was important, but was not the most important fact. The most important fact was that the former regime was toppled and was replaced with an Islamic regime. What is important is the Islamic nature of our revolution which sets it apart from other revolutions that have taken place in the world. [passage omitted]

We should not regard Islam as limited within strict limits. This is the meaning of Islamic fundamentalism which the enemies are making so much hue and cry about. They are right. What we have is Islamic fundamentalism. It means that the people believe that the government which was established by the Prophet of Islam in the early days of Islam, through which the Muslims ruled the world for a long time, is the right form of government and they wish to establish that form of government. This is what they are calling Islamic fundamentalism. The religious thinking which had been destroyed as the result of the efforts of the enemies of religion was once again revived. This is a truth, and this is what is so valuable. This is what has caused the call of Islam to be raised throughout the world. [passage omitted]

If the enemies of Islam thought that Islam and the Islamic revolution would be limited to Iran and would not go beyond its borders they might not have objected. However, they see that the call for Islam has moved beyond Iranian borders, without any force or coercion it has been exported to other countries. You see that after the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic movements which already existed in other countries were further strengthened. Those which did not exist before, came into being. You now see a wave of demand for Islam in Egypt, in Sudan, in Algeria, Morocco, Palestine, Lebanon, Pakistan, and other countries, in Indonesia and African countries.

In all Islamic countries wherever you look you see more or less an Islamic movement, in some places the movement is very strong and in others it is still in its early days. All these movements came into being as the result of the Islamic revolution in Iran. Through studying these Islamic movements one can foresee that in the not-too-distant future Islam and the light of Islam and the movement for Islam will be spread to all Islamic countries. One can foresee that they will also experience the same revolution and will bring Islam into power in their countries. It is true that the enemies will fight and will try

to prevent it. They are suppressing the Islamic movement in Egypt, in Algeria, in Morocco, in Palestine, and other places. However, these temporary suppressions will not last long. One can foresee that in the future, God willing, Islam and the Muslims will become one of the greatest powers of the world, or the most powerful force in the world. [passage omitted]

You see that the enemies of Islam are confronting Islam with all their might. America, Israel and others are all confronting Islam with all their might so that they may prevent Islam from spreading. First, they wish to eradicate Islam from Iran. Second, they wish to eradicate it in other countries. I do not wish to repeat myself and there is not enough time; but you see that the leaders of America and Israel and other countries are repeatedly saying that the root of Islamic fundamentalism is in Iran, that Iran is a base for Islamic fundamentalism. It is quite true. They say that one should first settle the accounts with Iran, and later with other countries.

In any case, they are determined. The East and the West, the Great Satan, the lesser satans and all other satans are hell-bent on preventing the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. They are creating a great deal of trouble. They imposed the war. There are economic problems. There is the issue of oil. Each day they create a mischief to prevent the spreading of the Islamic revolution from Iran, because they know that if this bastion remains the Islamic world and the Muslims in other parts of the world will be inspired by it, that Iran will become a base for them. This is true. Were it not for Iran we would not have these Islamic movements. The enemies wish to destroy it. [passage omitted]

President Stresses Importance of Research

LD0802174293 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today that the Supreme Cultural Revolutionary Council has given priority to research and education and that scholars and scientists should participate in reconstruction efforts to develop the country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani in his inaugural address to the sixth international Khwarezmi Festival said that during the second five year plan the government will pay further attention to infrastructural research and educational affairs.

He underlined the importance of research in national development and called for more specialisation in this field.

According to the president important research activities have been carried out in the military sector during the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88), from which other research centres can benefit.

Rafsanjani also awarded gifts to Iranian and foreign researchers for their initiatives and innovative plans.

The festival is named after the great 9th century Iranian Muslim researcher and astronomer, Mohammed Bin Musa al-Khwarezmi who among other things invented the science of algebra, which term is actually a corruption of his famous book 'Al-Jabr-Val-Muqabila'.

Majles Speaker on Womens' Rights in Iran

LD0602222193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Excerpt] The seminar for the examination of the reasons behind changes in coverings [clothing] in society opened this afternoon with a speech by Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker, at the site of Tehran's Museum of Contemporary Arts. In his speech, Mr. Nateq-Nuri referred to the fact that global arrogance is citing the issue of women's rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran today as a case of the violation of women's rights and using it as a political weapon against us. He said: The issue of the violation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the movement of Iran toward obtaining atomic weapons, and terrorism are issues which are used, in the current circumstances of the world, by global arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Majles speaker said that the reason for this increased pressure on Iran is its steadfastness with regard to its slogans of independence, freedom, the Islamic Republic, and he added: The issue of women's rights is one of the pressures exerted on us in the political arena. Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: In the Islamic Republic of Iran and in any Islamic society there is no discrimination between men and women. [passage omitted]

Media Seen Neglecting Important Foreign Issues

NC0902115993 Tehran SALAM in Persian 29 Jan 93 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The State News Network and Foreign Policy"]

[Text] In a time that has been called the era of communications, almost everyone is aware of the significance and impact of communication on the public. Today the big Western countries spend astronomical amounts to set up radio and television networks, news agencies, newspapers, and magazines. They have realized that only through this mass media can they pave favorable grounds for imposing their views on the public and the rulers of the Third World and ensure their long-term objectives. Within this context, policymakers and foreign policy officials in many countries are directly influenced by America's CNN and, as a result, the world is viewing politics as American analysts want them to. By offering various programs in different languages, Radio Monte Carlo, the Voice of America, and the BBC are directing world public opinion according to their wishes, especially in the Arab countries. In addition to news agencies and various radio and television programs, Western newspapers and political magazines play an

active role in political developments in various parts of the world and feed their ideas to a large part of the press in the Third World.

Over the past decades, some Third World countries have initiated extensive activities, especially concerning their own regional news, such as former Yugoslavia with TANJUG, India with PTI, and Turkey with ANATOLIA. In Iran too, especially after the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, news agencies such as IRNA and the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI] have set up bureaus in a number of countries and have tried to do their best to meet the news needs of the country's mass media. How effective these activities have been and how successful they have been in achieving their objectives requires careful discussion and study. It may be interesting to briefly glance at the activities of Iran's media in relation to the political developments in two countries—Afghanistan and Tajikistan—that have numerous points in common with Iran such as their religion, history, culture, and language.

News on recent political developments in Afghanistan and Tajikistan and their implications for the region's future have been making the headlines of political reports in the world's mass media. Unfortunately, our country's mass media network has not displayed an active approach to the problems in these two countries. One could even say that there has been no specific news policy in relation with these developments. Of course we should not expect much from the country's newspapers and political magazines, most of which are facing financial problems and do not have correspondents abroad. But IRNA and VVIRI have offices in both these countries and every so often they send correspondents there. Then why do they not have the active presence they should in these two coreligionist countries? For example, it is not clear for our people and even for a large part of our political analysts why the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, which is the closest Afghan party to Iran, is being suddenly drawn into a war with the Jami'at-e Eslami and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces, which once fought next to each other in conquering Kabul, and why a coalition is being formed with Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami with which there were fundamental differences in the past, and why the mediation by our deputy foreign minister is not succeeding. Have the political developments in Afghanistan not had and will they not have a direct impact on our national interests? If this country is dismembered or if foreign puppets are brought to power, will our national interests not be threatened and should our government and nation not show sensitivity to these developments?

Another example is that of the Muslim-inhabited Republic of Tajikistan where—after the crushing of the Islamic and national forces—Iran's news media carried nothing more than a few pieces of incomplete news items, which were mostly citing Western news agencies. They did not even carry an independent and full report on the developments in that country while, in addition to

related news, the BBC's Persian service has been carrying at least one news item or commentary on the situation in Afghanistan and Tajikistan almost every day.

One might say that one of the most important factors that have led to this inactivity in our country's news media on foreign issues (and especially issues that are directly linked with our national interests) stems from the advice of officials of our country's diplomacy to the news agencies. Such intervention stems from the fact that any commentary or news item that is published by IRNA, VVIRI, and even most of the country's newspapers should reflect the government's official stance. The result is that most of the foreign news published in the domestic press is repetitive and lacking in newsworthiness.

By reflecting the weak and strong points of policies that have been adopted on foreign issues, an active news network can ensure the long-term interests of the country and can prevent the public from turning to foreign news agencies. Thus, apparently it is necessary for the country's news network to carry out a spring cleaning and for the related institutions to exert more efforts in the collection and dissemination of news and to concentrate their attention on regional countries.

Official Discusses Plans for Petrochemical Industry

LD0802180993 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—In the second five-year national development plan rls [rials] 11,000 billion investment is to be made on petrochemical industries which will increase its capacity from the nine million tons in the first national development plan to 12 million. According to the estimates of the second plan 60 per cent of petrochemical products of Iran will be exported.

According to the Deputy Minister of Oil and Managing Director of National Petrochemical Industries Company of Iran Ahmad Raghozar the investment on petrochemical industries in Iran for the second development plan is in floating parity rate, and its dollar portion is about four billion.

He said in an interview with 'HAMSHAHRI' printed today that the total investment will be enough for undertaking six petrochemical projects during the second development plan. In addition at least 30 projects are ready for assignment to the private sector in the country.

With regard to petrochemical industries the second development plan is distinct from the first development plan in that the latter has aimed at responding to national needs, whereas in the second about 60 per cent of petrochemical products will be exported.

Studies have already been made on the international status of the petrochemical products and certain plans have been adopted for exporting the petrochemical products, he said.

According to Raghozar among the expected export items will be plastics and chemical products such as M.T.B.E. which is used for making lead-free petrol which has a high value added, and the Islamic Republic is expected to be a major producer of that item in the region.

Also studies have been made on the ways and means for direct foreign investment in Iran as well as on partnership with foreign entrepreneurs. In the second development plan arrangements have been made for that which will be pending the position of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the administration in that respect.

The private sector can undertake part or the entirety of many projects and in practice there will be no restriction on the participation of the private sector in petrochemical projects.

Raghozar maintained that the involvement of the private sector in the industry would be necessary if the Islamic Republic intended to get into the international markets.

Since about two years ago the economization policy went into effect at the petrochemical industries of Iran and consequently the public (government) sector contribution to the industries for the Iranian calendar year 1372 (March 21, 1993-March 20, 1994) has dropped to as little as only six percent of the expected expenditures for those industries, that is about rls 2000 billion. 50 per cent of the yearly budget of the petrochemical industries will be provided by foreign loans and 40 per cent will be provided by the revenues of the industries.

The value of petrochemical products this year has been about dlr 800 million which is expected to increase to about dlr one billion next year and to more than dlr two billion in the year after.

Revenues from 1.5 million tons of petrochemical exports this year has been about dlr 150 million which is expected to rise to about dlr 400 million in another two years. That revenue will be derived from the exportation of only about 20-30 per cent of the total petrochemical products in Iran.

Raghozar said that the company has started paying back the foreign loans which it had received during the first national development plan and during 1992 it paid off dlr 10 million. In 1993, he said, another dlr 60 million and in 1994 another dlr 120 million will be paid off.

The petrochemical industries company of Iran, Raghozar said, is able both to pay off its loans outstanding as well as make new investments and also further develop present industries.

Technicians Repair High-Altitude Missile Systems

LD0802115193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] For the first time in the country, defensive high-altitude missile systems were successfully repaired by the technicians of the Revolutionary Guard Corps.

According to a report by IRIB, to coincide with the auspicious Ten Days of Dawn ceremonies and at a meeting attended by the commander, Brigadier General Mohsen Reza'i, the general commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], and Commander Jalali, the commander of the IRGC's Air Force, and a group of commanders and officials of the force, a defensive high-altitude missile system that had been damaged during the sacred defense [Iran-Iraq war] became operational.

In the ceremonies, the commander, Brig. Gen. Mohsen Reza'i, pointed out that the IRGC's Air Force has achieved significant progress in various fields and said the technicians of the IRGC's Air Force have managed to repair and use equipment damaged in the imposed war; this is a sign of the firm and constructive action by the personnel toward greater progress.

Delegation Visits France To Promote Investment

LD0602153493 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines 'Ali Naqi Khamushi wound up a four-day visit to France and returned home Friday.

In Paris, Khamushi, heading an eco-political delegation, took part in a seminar on Tehran-Paris trade relations and held talks with several French economic and political officials as well as industrialists.

Speaking to IRNA in Paris before departure, Khamushi said that Tehran-Paris trade relations have been growing since 1988 when the two countries resumed diplomatic ties. The two sides decided that delegations from the two countries' Chambers of Commerce exchange visits annually to discuss trade ties.

He added that such visits will provide grounds for promotion of trade ties and also help remove discrepancies.

He also voiced satisfaction with his talks with French industrialists and hoped that bilateral trade cooperation, in private sector in particular, would be expanded.

Addressing the participants at the seminar on Thursday, sponsored by French industrial owners, Khamushi noted that France ranks fifth among Iran's trade partners and said that France can increase its trade with Iran in light of its familiarity with Iranian market. Paris is involved in power generation and telecommunication industry in Iran, but relations have not grown favourably, he continued.

On weaknesses of French industrial and trade sectors in their relations with Iran, he stressed that Paris acts with too much reservation in its trade and economic relations with Iran as a result of which it is overtaken by its competitors from other countries.

Asked to comment on the free trade zones in Kish, Qeshm and Chah Bahar, in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, and regulations for foreign investments, he said the idea of declaring the areas as free trade zone was to set up industrial plants and attract foreign investment. The government has provided certain facilities for foreign investors in free trade zones including tax exemption and special export-import regulations and labor insurance, he specified.

Khamushi described the buyback system as the appropriate mechanism for economic cooperation between Iran and foreign investors and called the recent decision of Majles (parliament) on single rate for foreign currencies as a "move forward accelerating trade exchange between Iran and foreign partners."

He added that the newly-established Bank of Export Promotion will deal with contracts in this regard.

Speaking in the same seminar Iran's Ambassador to Paris 'Ali Ahani thanked the French industrialists for arranging the seminar and called the presence of French entrepreneurs in Iranian market as "insufficient" in view of the long period of trade relations between Iran and France and encouraged the French industrialists to recapture their position from their foreign competitors operating in Iran.

Despite some problems, he said, "trade relations between the two countries were growing since resumption of trade in 1988." The volume of annual trade between Iran and France stands at French francs 12,500 million and Iran is the second supplier of oil to France, he said.

Iran's ambassador pointed out that French companies can retake their position in Iran and take advantage of the appropriate opportunity for the French companies in the field of gas, oil, mines and food industry.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Pardons 116 Convicts

LD0602181193 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei pardoned 116 convicts of the special tribunals for the clerics on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Imam Mahdi (peace be upon him), the 12th imam of the household of the Prophet (peace be upon him).

The pardon was granted on the proposal of the special prosecutor for the clerics Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri.

Nepal

Ruling Party Congress Ends; Constitution Unchanged

BK0602145793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 6 (AFP)—A general council meeting of the ruling Nepali Congress (NC) party ended without making expected changes to the party's constitution to curtail the power of its president, sources said Saturday.

"The high commands of the NC including senior leader Ganesh Man Singh, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and others participated in the meeting held at Bharatpur," NC spokesman C.K. Prasai told reporters.

One source said however the three-day convention which ended late Friday failed to bring about expected amendments to the party's 1960 constitution.

A pro-Koirala lobby in the meeting tried to make major changes to the constitution in an apparent bid to curtail the power of the party president, the source said.

"This meant the insertion of some provisions in the party constitution that would make the same person both the prime minister and the party president," he said.

An NC source said Nepali Congress leaders "strongly criticized Prime Minister Koirala's poor performance on the economic front, his failure to control administrative corruption and bring about impressive changes in the development of the country after the 30-year Panchayat rule."

The general council also agreed to include women representatives in all levels of the Nepali Congress and to keep the congress door open to all political parties.

Pakistan

Nuclear Technology Agreement Signed With France

BK0902154193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan and France have signed a cooperation agreement on the scientific use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The agreement signed in Islamabad today states that cooperation between the two countries will be purely for scientific purposes and has nothing to do with nuclear power plant issues.

French Foreign Affairs Official Pays Visit

Urges Peace With India

BK0802091493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The French minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Georges Kiejman, arrived in Islamabad today on a

five-day visit to Pakistan for talks with Pakistani leaders on promoting the existing relations between the two countries in political, economic, and commercial fields. On his arrival at the Islamabad airport, he said that Pakistan enjoys a key position in the region with which France would further develop its economic and trade links. The French minister also recognized Pakistan's position vis-a-vis peace and security in the region and called upon Pakistani and Indian leaders to make peace.

Meets Finance Minister

BK0802160493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The French minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Georges Kiejman, held a meeting with the finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, in Islamabad today. The finance minister briefed him about the investment opportunities in Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of Pakistan in view of the vast market existing in Central Asian states having rich resources which need to be tapped for the regional and global benefit.

Mr. Georges Kiejman assured the finance minister that he would take necessary measures in materializing the economic potential in various fields for further enhancing the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Talks With Sharif

BK0902022893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Georges Kiejman, the visiting French minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday. They assessed the latest situation in occupied Kashmir, and the situation in Afghanistan and Central Asia. The talks also covered bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to study means to further consolidate and strengthen relations between Pakistan and France.

Meets President, Foreign Minister

BK0902144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The French minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Georges Kiejman, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, satisfaction was expressed at the depth and direction of bilateral relations which have been traditionally very close and cordial. The president appreciated France's continuing interest in Pakistan's development which has always found expression in the generosity with which France has extended assistance to Pakistan as a member of the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium. The French foreign minister reiterated his country's abiding interest in Pakistan as France considered it to be a key country not only in the region, but also in world affairs.

The French minister of state for foreign affairs also held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo. The two sides held detailed discussion and exchanged views on various international and regional issues, including Kashmir. Mr. Georges Kiejman appreciated Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir and hoped the issue will be resolved in the interest of the people of the region. He assured France's cooperation in the pursuit of common objectives and international peace and stability.

At the end of the talks, France and Pakistan signed and exchanged letters providing for cooperation between the two countries for peaceful use of nuclear technology in the fields of medicine and agriculture.

Shah Hosts Banquet for Turkish Counterpart

BK0902032893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The independence of the Central Asian republics has created new new avenues for cooperation among countries in the region and Pakistan has adopted a comprehensive strategy of approaching these republics within the framework of the extended Economic Cooperation Organization. This was stated by federal Defense Minister Ghaus Ali Shah at a banquet hosted in Islamabad last night in honor of Nevzat Ayaz, the visiting Turkish defense minister. He hoped that the traditional Pakistan-Turkish friendship and their identity of views on various international issues will lead to gradual promotion of fruitful cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The Turkish defense minister said both countries enjoy excellent relations and it is our responsibility to instill the same spirit of friendship in the younger generation.

UAE Vice President Meets With Khan

BK0902023693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid Al Maktum, the visiting United Arab Emirates vice president and prime minister, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad yesterday. They discussed bilateral relations and the situation in the region. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations and hoped that these will be further expanded. They agreed that the agreement on avoidance of double taxation will help increase trade between the two countries.

Later, the president hosted a banquet in honor of the distinguished guest.

Joint Exercises With Saudi Navy Conclude

BK0602152593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The 10-day joint maritime exercises, codenamed Naseemul Lehar, between the Royal Saudi Navy and the

Pakistan Navy [PN] concluded in the north Arabian sea. A number of Pakistan Navy ships, submarines, helicopters, and aircraft took part in the joint exercises with the Royal Saudi Naval ships and helicopters. At the end of the exercises at sea, the Pakistan fleetiers successfully conducted live missile firing from submarines, air, and surface units.

The chief of the naval staff, Admiral Sayeed M. Khan, who witnessed culmination of five-day tactical sea (?games) said tough joint exercises with brotherly countries enable us to develop better understanding and enhance mutual professional competence. He also expressed satisfaction over the professional performance of PN fleet units.

Jordanian Navy Chief Arrives for 8-Day Visit

BK0602153693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The commander of Royal Jordanian naval forces, Colonel Husayn 'Ali Mahmud al-Ghassani arrived in Islamabad this morning on an eight-day official visit to Pakistan. At Islamabad airport, he was received by Commodore Syed Irtiza Hussain, commander North Navy. Representatives of Jordanian Embassy in Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Supreme Court To Investigate Beg's Remarks

BK0702101493 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Feb 93 pp 1,10

[Text] Islamabad—The Supreme Court of Pakistan Saturday decided to suo moto initiate investigation into certain remarks made by former army chief General (retd.) Mirza Aslam Beg, tarnishing the image of the country's highest judicial body.

It has asked Attorney General Aziz A. Munshi to submit a report on the subject.

In a startling disclosure, General Beg has claimed that he had asked the Supreme Court in 1988 not to restore the Junejo government.

"I am ready to defend if contempt proceedings are initiated against me," he said on Friday after his remarks created a storm in the judicial circles.

A brief announcement signed by M.A. Latif, registrar of the Supreme Court, issued on Saturday said notice had been taken of the (controversial) speech made by General Beg on February 4. "Normal processing which is necessary in such cases has started."

A number of former judges who sat on the bench in 1988 and some serving judges are extremely annoyed over what Beg said, and have called for contempt of court proceedings against him.

This is the first time that the country's highest court has moved against a former army chief.

Explaining the Supreme Court's decision to take notice, noted constitutional expert Syed Iftikhar Gilani told 'THE NEWS' that one way is that the Chief Justice himself can suo moto proceed in the matter against the concerned person.

The second is that the Chief Justice can refer it to all judges of the Supreme Court for their opinion. If a majority of them is of the view that the concerned person should be proceeded against for contempt of court, proceedings are initiated, Gilani elaborated.

He said a cursory look at the Supreme Court's notice showed that the honourable court wanted to probe the matter before finally starting contempt proceedings. The opinion of the Attorney General will also considerably matter.

Another constitutional lawyer explained that the court may summon General Beg for an explanation to determine whether a contempt case could be made out against him.

Gilani was of the opinion that the issue must first be clarified so that there is no room for speculation.

In a first ever comment by any PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader, Gilani said speculation had it that pressure had always been put on the superior courts during military rules from the 1958 Dosso case to Begum Nosrat Bhutto case. "It has not helped to enhance the image of the superior judiciary," he believed.

Defense Minister Discusses Current Issues

BK0802152793 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 7 Feb 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Islamabad—Federal Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that the government is not oblivious of the country's defense and it will not accept any kind of pressure in this regard nor will it compromise on any issue; if the United States tried to attack us, like Iraq, then it would be Washington's mistake to think that it would be able to subdue us. Rather, it will face a humiliating defeat. Talking to reporters here, he said our neighbor India is currently engaged in stockpiling arms. It has also acquired rocket technology, which poses a threat not only to Pakistan, but also to the Central Asian states. We are most concerned about this. In spite of all this, he said, we are striving hard to strengthen our defense and the government will live up to the expectations of the people.

Answering a question about the statement by Aslam Beg, the former army chief of staff, the defense minister said only God knows how far this is true, but there are two parties to this issue and they are General Aslam Beg and the Supreme Court. Anything in this connection can be done only if the Supreme Court accepts and confirms his statement. But, nobody can influence the decisions of our Supreme Court. One thing, however, I would like to say about Aslam Beg is that he is a democracy-loving

person and he worked hard for the restoration of democracy to the country during his entire tenure.

Answering a question about the army operation in Sindh, he said the decision about the Sindh operation will be made this month. The delay in this matter was caused due to the death of the late general [former Army Chief General Asif Nawaz]. The new army chief has been given the opportunity to assess the Sindh army operation and the situation in the province and to submit a report to the meeting slated to be held under the chairmanship of the president.

Asked about the forthcoming presidential election, Ghaus Ali Shah said he is not a candidate. He said, however, the party's decisions will be binding on him and if the party fields him as a candidate, he will respect its decision; if the party chooses President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to be its candidate, then also he will respect it. This decision, however, has to be made by the party. In my view, he said, President Ishaq Khan is a honorable person and his performance has been very good. He is a seasoned politician, the minister added.

Government To Build Destroyer, Frigate for Navy

BK0502150393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Feb 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 4—Pakistan has decided to build destroyer and frigate for its Navy by using indigenous resources.

The government has given a green signal in this regard and asked the agencies concerned to develop the required infrastructure for the construction of frigates.

Due to Washington's insistence for the return of its frigate, Aslat, which Pakistan Navy acquired from the US on lease along with other eight ships during 80's, Pakistan desperately needs alternate arrangements to keep its Navy in a reasonable shape.

Pakistan navy, which had been throughout banking heavily on the US technology, with minor assistance at a later stage from China, France and the United Kingdom, would now seek necessary technology from other countries known for their maritime technology.

Some time back the navy had requested the government to take up the task of ship building within the country. The proposal was accepted. Pak navy which has 15 frigates at its disposal, has already defected to exclude Aslat, from its fleet, sources indicated.

Meanwhile discussions regarding the return of Aslat were concluded in the Naval Headquarters here on Thursday.

The discussions, which took place between six-member US Defence Department team and Pakistan's authorities, took up the technical matters pertaining to the modalities of the return of the Aslat. The two sides

explained their decision would be taken by the governments of the two countries after mutual agreements.

The six-member US Defence Department team is led by McKalip, Director of Operations Defence Security and Assistance Agency USA. The talks continued for two days. The host country's team comprised representatives of Ministry of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Pakistan Navy. The US team was also assisted by representatives of US Embassy in Islamabad.

The chief of the US team called on Admiral Saeed Muhammad Khan, Chief of the Naval Staff, on Thursday, here and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Sources told THE MUSLIM that Karachi shipyard and engineering works would be upgraded for the purpose of building vessels for the Navy. It is expected that the first such ship would be ready for the Navy, when the return of another leased American ship would be due some time next year, sources said.

Pakistan Navy badly neglected in past by the military ruler, would now be given due and adequate attention and government would try to make up for the past deficiencies.

More significantly Pakistan navy would be equipped with first patrol boat, prepared in Karachi dockyard this year, sources said.

This would enable the navy patrol its maritime frontiers more effectively.

Paper Denies President Opposes Nuclear Policy

BK0502152793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 93 p 6

[Editorial: "GIK and Nuclear Programme"]

[Text] As the time for the election of the next President draws close, certain damaging stories have appeared in a section of the Press alleging that Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in the past, tried to block nation's nuclear programmes by refusing to release funds for this sector. It has also been suggested that he missed a number of opportunities for obtaining overseas assistance and participation in this field. The stories are designed to create the impression that the President, in the hearts of his hearts, is opposed to the development of national nuclear programme and has been making efforts to sabotage it by subtle and indirect methods.

The opponents of the President have not offered any evidence which could stand court examination, but since the malicious reports have appeared in national Press, it is necessary to refuse these fabrications by placing the issue in a larger perspective. It is interesting that no allegations have been made on the President's views on our relations with India and on his stance on Kashmir. Those who have even a rudimentary knowledge of South Asian politics, will see the essential linkage between these three issues. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is

considered even by his critics, as having a hardline approach on relations with India. Similarly his views on the possible resolution of Kashmir problem have been so strong as to be termed by some analysis as rigid. Our quest to have the nuclear option is dictated by the size of Indian nuclear programme. We are not acquiring nuclear capability for its own sake; our basic anxiety is not to be blackmailed by India and be compelled [as published] to live as a satellite state of that regional giant. It is illogical to assume that a President who has an uncompromising stand on Kashmir and Indo-Pak rapprochement will hamper the development of atomic technology, which is absolutely essential if we want to stand up to our bellicose neighbour. And that is why Washington is getting antagonistic to GIK's candidature as the next President.

The democratic process here is still at the fledgling stage, and it is in the nature of things that representative governments that appear in these circumstances are vulnerable to external pressures. The US and the West can easily manipulate weak and unstable governments in the fragile Third World democracies to achieve their ends. Benazir's government, in spite of all its radical and populist rhetoric, was always willing to sign the dotted line for US at the slightest hint. The present government, too, cannot on its own stand up to the Western economic and military pressure. In Pakistan the elected governments would have felt tempted to reach an accommodation with the US and the industrial West, but the man who stood like rock against political and economic blackmail from the West has been the President. It is no secret that Washington finds President Ghulam Ishaq Khan an extremely tough customer who stands opposed to the imposition of US made regional order in this part of the world. Parties in power in this country realise that they are being vigilantly watched by the powerful figure of the President, and that consideration more than anything else, prevents them from even contemplating a deal with America and its protages.

The campaign against the President is partly the fault of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, Islamic Democratic Alliance] coalition. They are still delaying a close out [words indistinct] for the next President of the country. The climate of uncertainty is the cause of burgeoning hopes in the bosom of many a politician. It is high time the ruling party threw its weight behind the incumbent as he seems to be the only person capable of steering the ship of state safely and soundly in these stormy times.

Paper Views National Security, Military Spending

BK0602115293 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Feb 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Why No Cut in Military Spending?"]

[Text] Federal Defence Production Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani has said that even if there were external pressures the government would not cut the defence budget during the next fiscal year because, as he put it,

"there could be no compromise on the security, of the country keeping in view the challenges it is faced with."

It is indeed reassuring that the Minister, taking notice of the challenges to the country, has vowed that the nation's security would not be compromised. But the problem is of perceptions of security and challenges. The term security has to be defined first. The context in which the Minister said that there could be no compromise on security clearly meant that there could be no cut in military spending by the government, come what may. It is here that we have to correct our perceptions.

A nation's security is not its military might alone. It is a composite of several elements, notably economic development, literacy, quality of its manpower, national integration, and social and political cohesion—in addition to its military prowess. Just as man behind the gun is more important than the gun in the battle, so a nation behind an army is more important than the army itself. Obsession with military expenditure alone can be counter-productive as it can lead to a dangerous neglect of other elements determining a nation's strength and security. What has to be recognised is that security and military expenditure are not synonymous. You can spend billions of dollars on the purchase of arms, as so many Arab states have done and still have no security.

Army Divisions, Air Force squadrons and Naval fleets cannot protect a nation corroded from within, whose social, economic and political development is in a state of stagnation. The vast war machine and thousands of nuclear warheads could not prevent even a superpower like the former USSR from disintegrating. Conversely, Japan and Germany have acquired a new stature in the comity of nations not through military expenditure but by scientific, technological and economic advancement. Germany achieved its age-old dream of unification, and is a dominant power of Europe, without firing a single shot.

If such is the calculus of a nation's security where do we stand? During the last 13 years our military spending has increased seven fold from Rs [rupees] 12 billion in 1979-80 to over Rs 85 billion now. The development outlay at Rs 21 billion then was more than military spending. Today it falls short of military spending. No wonder human development has suffered grievously and the nation behind the military is getting weakened and corroded.

In the face of the rising defence budget and shrinking developmental budget it may not be in the interest of the military itself to go on taking what it wants. There is no debate in Parliament in the name of secrecy. What secrecy? The suppliers being the same, the enemy knows exactly what we have and what we buy. Only the nation remains ignorant. The so-called sovereign Parliament is not allowed to question any item of the defence budget. And the lid of secrecy is tightened every year. Last year the Auditor General's annual report spoke of massive irregularities and bunglings in the spendings by the defence services. This year's report

as published in the press has not touched the subject at all. Why? Was there no financial irregularity? Or, has the audit of defence spending been taken out of the purview of the Auditor General?

Our concept of national security has been so shaped that it means only unchecked military spending and acquisition of more sophisticated weapons in an environment in which the thought processes of the people are controlled in matters of defence and security. If there is full public discussion we might discover that all these weapons which Western manufacturers dump on us have little to do with the security of the country. And we might discover that a cut in military spending is not only possible but also most desirable.

Foreign Office Counters Arms Smuggling Charges
BK0802142993 Islamabad *THE NATION* in English 8 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad (PPI)—A foreign office spokesman has clarified a news item published in 'THE STATESMAN' an Indian daily, alleging that automatic weapons were smuggled by Pakistan into India and stated that this report was pure fabrication whose officially inspired objective is obviously to malign Pakistan. He said that the orgy of communal violence resulting in massive loss of life and property in Bombay and other parts of India was designed to terrorise the Muslim minority. The spokesman disclosed that this violence was even encouraged by the Indian law enforcing agencies entrusted with the task of protecting innocent citizens. The spokesman added that to conceal their own complicity in the anti-Muslim violence and killings, Indian authorities are deliberately seeking to transfer the blame onto Pakistan. This is the old game of disinformation adding that such reports deserve to be treated with contempt.

Commentary Views Yeltsin Remarks on Kashmir
BK0602120193 Islamabad *Radio Pakistan Network* in English 1600 GMT 5 Feb 93

[A.B.S. Jafri commentary]

[Text] During his recent official visit to India, president of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, spoke on a number of subjects relating to Indo-Russian affairs and also on the major issues in the subcontinent. Some of these subcontinental issues have come to have such a peculiar character that no world leader can possibly gloss over the dangers posed by them toward peace. The Indian media chose to be intensely selective in reporting what Mr. Yeltsin said and what he could have meant. This was as regrettable as indeed it was to be expected. So, no hard feelings on that score. Now that the dust (?has) gone and the day [words indistinct] is settling down, it is time to ask back to the Russian leader and try to understand his various observation.

Contrary to the impression given by doctored news reports from New Delhi, Mr. Yeltsin categorically stated

that Russia's interest in renewing traditional equation with India did not mean that it was leaving Pakistan out of reference, let alone wanting to leave it out in the cold.

Russian friendship with India could not be interpreted [words indistinct] direct (?cause) or hostility toward Pakistan. Mr. Yeltsin's thoroughly clear and direct references to the Kashmir issue has also given the reports in the Indian media with a kind of intimidation which is unfortunate for Yeltsin himself. He is reported to have supported India's position on Kashmir. Let us see what is seen as India's stated position on this question.

India admits that Kashmir is a disputed state. India has never tired of saying that it wants the Kashmir dispute to be settled by peaceful negotiations. India says it would seek a solution under the Simla Agreement. And [words indistinct] Pakistan or India speak in the same language. What India needs as a (?lesson) is another matter. On record is India's position that Kashmir is a disputed state. A solution to this dispute to be peaceful and negotiated under Simla Agreement—that is no problem. If Mr. Yeltsin lent his support to this position of India on Kashmir dispute, well and good. What has been glossed over by the Indian media and as a consequence missed by some international experts, is that the Russian president had some sound advice for his Indian friend. He urged New Delhi to settle the Kashmir dispute and have done with it expeditiously. In other words, Mr. Yeltsin's support (?cannot be stretched) to give support to India's unrelenting efforts to procrastinate and prolong the dispute. Mr. Yeltsin went several steps further, in fact. He pointed out to the Indian leaders the example of settling international issues and ironing out differences in international relations in Europe. There the Council for Security and Economic Cooperation [CSEC] dealt with issues which needed permanent settlement. It was all done through talks across the table. It is the sensible way throughout international relations and this was a peaceful and simple approach, which the Russian president recommended to New Delhi in quite clear and unmistakable terms; and who would have any reservations on a purpose so eminently reasonable?

What is it that Pakistan is asking for on Kashmir dispute if not a peacefully negotiated settlement? All right, if it comes under the blessings of the Simla Agreement. It is the objective which matters, and the objective is a fair, peaceful, and enduring settlement of the dispute over the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

An international approach to solving bilateral problems as suggested by Mr. Boris Yeltsin by pointing to the CSEC in Europe (?lends support) to Pakistan's own proposal for a five-nation joint effort to settle another extremely thorny and risk-laden problem of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia, and indeed Asia as a whole. Pakistan invites India, Russia, China, the United States to the table to work out a formula which will rid first South Asia and then all Asia from menace of nuclear holocaust. (?All four are agreed) which means that Mr. Yeltsin's Russian federation. The one part of this [words indistinct] in

resolving international issues by negotiations is India. Mr. Yeltsin cannot be over-radical.

Chinese Friendship Delegation Meets Ishaq Khan

BK0602152393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The Chinese Friendship Association delegation led by its president, Mr. Han Xu, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President's House] today. During the meeting, they discussed with the president various aspects of bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. Satisfaction was expressed at the depth and direction of friendship between the two countries, which has been a model of stability in the region. A keen desire was expressed to expand the areas of cooperation in various fields to mutual benefit.

Sharif Announces Land Reforms in Sindh

BK0802031093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Thirty thousand landless peasants are to become owners of 16-acre tracts of land in the riverine areas of Sindh under a revolutionary program launched by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, today. Announcing the program in his address to the nation over radio and television network tonight, the prime minister also outlined various integrated development schemes to ensure settlement of peasants on their land on permanent basis. He also announced a creation of a separate body to ensure the settlement of landless peasants in kuchcha areas [villages with mud-brick houses] as well as to prevent such lands falling into the wrong hands. Addressing the nation from a small village (Mai Othu) in kuchcha area of Dadu District, the prime minister said the program will not only benefit the poor toiling peasants in Sindh, but will have a far-reaching and positive impact all over the country. While details of the program will be announced from time to time, the prime minister explained certain features at the outset.

He said every peasant will be allotted 16 acres of land in the kuchcha area with property rights and some 30,000

families will become owners of their own land in this way. The land will be allotted to those who possess legitimate and legal deeds of land. In addition to this, the peasants will be provided loans by the government for the purchase of seed, fertilizer, tube wells and tractors. The ADBP [Agriculture Development Bank of Pakistan] and other institutions have also been directed to provide all possible facilities to the peasants in kuchcha areas.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif noted that mere allotment of land will not solve the problems of tillers of the soil. For this reason comprehensive development schemes have also been initiated on emergency basis to make the program durable and effective in the settlement of peasants of kuchcha areas. He said the body established by him for this purpose had started the laying of kuchcha and pucca [mud and laterite] roads stretching for a thousand kilometers from Kashmir to Thatha. Other facilities to be provided expeditiously in kuchcha areas include primary schools, dispensaries, basic health units, veterinary dispensaries, electrification of villages, installation of hand pumps, setting up of police stations and public call offices.

The prime minister said the program had in fact started the day when kuchcha areas were rid of dacoits [robbers] with the help of the provincial administration and the Pakistan Army. With the restoration of normalcy in the interior of Sindh, the Survey of Pakistan, Pakistan Army and the provincial government with their round-the-clock efforts on his directives had enabled him to announce the formal launching of the program today which is also the auspicious day of the 14th of Shaban [Muslim religious day]. He said he has directed the provincial government, the Pakistan Army and the rangers to take fool-proof steps to instill a sense of security and confidence among peasants in the interior of Sindh in general and the kuchcha areas in particular so that they wholeheartedly start cultivation of their land without any fear.

Earlier, in the day, the prime minister distributed allotment orders among 128 haris [peasants] at a ceremony near Bilawalpur near Talti in Dadu District today. They were given 16 acres of land each on ownership basis in kuchcha areas.